

Expedition Tour in Armenia

Key information

Duration: 18 days / 17 nights

Best season: May - October

Tour type: Small group of 3-13 people

What's included:

Private airport transfers according to your flight information, Accommodation (3* European class hotels / double rooms / 17 nights), Breakfast, 3All transfers in air-conditioned vehicles, English speaking hiking guide service for all days, All admission fees, 3 bottles (0.5 litre) of water per day per person, 24-hour office support, Local mountain guide service where needed

What's not included:

Flights, Visa Fee, Medical Insurance

Itinerary in brief

Day 1 - Arrival - Yerevan
Day 2 - Garni - Havuts Tar Plato
Day 3 - Geghama Range Plato - Badi Lake
Day 4 - Azhdahak - Akna Lake
Day 5 - Akna Lake - Tsaghkashen - Martuni
Day 6 - Armaghan Mount - Artanish
Day 7 - Artanish Mount - Ijevan - Apaga Resort
Day 8 - Lastiver - Okon
Day 9 - Okon - Atan
Day 10 - Dsegh - Haghpat
Day 11 - Haghpat - Sanahin - Saghmosavank - Byurakan
Day 12 - Amberd - Kari Lake
Day 13 - Aragats South Peak - Gegharot
Day 14 - Aragats - Yerevan
Day 15 - Khor Virap - Smbataberd - Zorats Karer - Sisian
Day 16 - Ltsen - Tatev
Day 17 - Tatev - Devil's Bridge - Noravank - Yerevan
Day 18 - Free day - Departure

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1

After your arrival at Yerevan airport, you'll be met by our company representatives and have a transfer to the hotel.

Overnight: *Hotel in Yerevan*

Day 2

That will be your first day of exciting adventures. First, you will reach Garni village where the trekking will start. The village is well known for its Garni temple that is the only preserved example of Hellenistic architecture in the Caucasus region. Your trekking will start from the temple. The trail will take you down to the canyon and then up to the ruins of Havuts Tar church located in the very heart of Khosrov Natural Reserve on the left banks of Azat River. The church is very rarely visited by tourists due to its location. However, those who manage to reach it will be rewarded by the fantastic view of the surrounded mountains opening from the hill. The average duration of the trekking will be 4-5 hours and the height difference about 1000 m.

Overnight: *Camping in Geghama Gorge*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Duration: *4-5 hours*

Asc | Desc: *1000 m (980 m - 2000 m)*

Day 3

This day you will have a chance to see one of the favourite destinations of trekking lovers - Geghama Mountain Range. The range is a huge natural monument with an average elevation of 2500 m; it includes many extinct volcanoes. During the trekking you will reach the plateau and then head to Badi Lake. Your trekking will take approximately 4 hours and the height difference will be 1000 m.

Overnight: *Camping in Badi Lake*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Duration: *4 hours*

Asc | Desc: *1000 m (2000 m - 3000 m)*

Day 4

This day you will conquer the peak of Azhdahak Mount that is a volcano and the highest peak of Geghama Range. The highlight of the trip will be a fairy tale crater Lake Akna the transparent waters of which surrounded by majestic nature amaze the visitors. The lake is considered the largest water reservoir in the Geghama Range, it is even protected by the state as a natural monument. Your trekking will take about 4-5 hours and the height difference will be about 600 m.

Overnight: *Camping at Akna Lake*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Duration: *4-5 hours*

Asc | Desc: *600 m (3000 m - 3597 m - 3032 m)*

Day 5

On the fifth day, you will leave the camping area and start trekking to Tsaghkashen village. That is a small settlement of the Aragatsotn Region. The day will end with a transfer to your hotel in Martuni town. The average trekking duration of this day is 4-5 hours and the height difference about 900 m.

Overnight: *Hotel in Martuni*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Duration: *4-5 hours*

Asc | Desc: *900 m (3032 m - 2132 m)*

Day 6

The day will start with climbing to Armaghan Mount which is also part of the Geghama Range. Armaghan is an extinct volcano with an altitude of 2829 m. It is surrounded by fertile meadows covered with rich vegetation. Your head will go round from the sweet smell of herbs and flowers growing there. During the climbing, you will enjoy the tranquility of this area and the view of blue sky and background landscapes. In the end, you will be rewarded by the view of small crater lake in the transparent waters of which the sky is reflected. Not far from the lake there is an old sanctuary. The day will end with a transfer to Artanish village where you will set your tents and have a nice evening at the bonfire. The average trekking duration of this day is 5 hours and the height difference – 619 m.

Overnight: *Tents in Artanish*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Duration: *5 hours*

Asc | Desc: *619 m (2228 m - 2815 m)*

Day 7

This day you will experience climbing to Artanish Mount located not far from legendary Lake Sevan – the highest freshwater lake in the region and the gem of Armenian nature. It will be an easy ascent as the mount has a low altitude. On the top, you will be rewarded with a stunning view of Lake Sevan. During the way there is a chance to meet mountain goats called Bezoar Goats. After the climbing, you will be transferred to the Apaga base located in a cozy town Ijevan. Apaga resort is not just a recreation area but also a great place for extreme lovers. Here one can try zip-line and other exciting activities. The average trekking duration of the 7th day is 3-4 hours and the height difference – 500 m.

Overnight: *Hotel in Ijevan*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Duration: *3-4 hours*

Asc | Desc: *500 m (1930 m - 2461 m)*

Day 8

That will be an exciting day with hiking to mysterious Lastiver Caves and waterfalls. The way will pass through dense forests where you will have a chance to see small houses constructed over

trees. Once they were inhabited by hermits. At the end of your way, there will be a long ladder that allows to reach the caves. Your hiking will finish with a visit to a beautiful waterfall in waters of which one can swim in case of fine weather. The average duration of hiking will be 4-5 hours and the height difference about 350 m.

Overnight: *Camping in Okon*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Duration: *4-5 hours*

Asc | Desc: *350 m (1349 m - 1600 m)*

Day 9

The day will be devoted to highland crossing that will take about 5-7 hours. The height difference will be about 300 m. The day will end with your arrival in Atan village located in Lori Province. Lori is a beautiful region with rich breathtaking natural landscapes; it is home to several UNESCO sites and ancient monasteries.

Overnight: *Camping in Atan*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Duration: *5-7 hours*

Asc | Desc: *300 m (1600 m - 1900 m)*

Day 10

This day you won't have much trekking or hiking. There will be just a transfer to Dsegh village known as the birthplace of famous Armenian poet Hovhannes Tumanyan. In the evening we will make a stop in your hotel in Haghpat village.

Overnight: *Hotel in Haghpat*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Duration: *4-6 hours*

Asc | Desc: *400 m (1600 m - 1200 m)*

Day 11

That will be an exciting day including exploration of UNESCO sites. You will visit Haghpat and Sanahin Monastery complexes (UNESCO World Heritage Sites) that both are equally beautiful but have a very different atmosphere. You will hike from Haghpat to Sanahin through beautiful meadows and small villages. The hike is easy (the trail length – 10 km). The tour will end with relaxing sightseeing. You will visit Saghmosavank (Monastery of Psalms) perched on the edge of picturesque Kasakh gorge as well as see the monument to the Armenian alphabet.

Overnight: *Hotel in Byurakan*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 12

The day includes hiking in Aragatsotn Region that is a very popular destination among hikers. The region is located in the western part of Armenia and is surrounded by mountains from three sides. Your hiking will start from Amberd Fortress that is a medieval construction located on the southern



slopes of Aragats Mount – the highest mountain peak of modern Armenia. Your trail will lead you to Lake Kari (Stone Lake). The lake got its name due to the fact that it is surrounded by stones and its water is as cold as a stone. During your hike, you will enjoy the mountain fresh and crystal air, admire the extraordinary natural views and make lots of curious discoveries.

Overnight: *Camping in Kari Lake*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Duration: *4-6 hours*

Asc | Desc: *900 m (2300 m - 3200 m)*

Day 13

This day you will have climbing to the South peak of Aragats Mount. Aragats is a volcano the northern peak of which is the highest one in the Armenian Highlands (4094m). You will conquer the south summit which is the easiest one – it is 3879 m. After the ascend to the top there will be a descent into the crater and then trekking to Gegharot Waterfall. The campsite will be set not far from the waterfall.

Overnight: *Camping under Gegharot*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Duration: *5-7 hours*

Asc | Desc: *700 m (3200 m - 3879 m)*

Day 14

You will meet the sunrise in an extraordinary area just beside the gorgeous waterfall located on the slopes of Aragats Mount. Just try to wake up early to have much time for admiring the stunning atmosphere of surrounding tranquillity and beauty. In winter the water of the waterfall freezes and in summer it falls from 17 m high. You will leave this fairy area and start trekking to the last destination to Aragats village. The day will end with a transfer to Yerevan.

Overnight: *Hotel in Yerevan*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Duration: *5-6 hours*

Asc | Desc: *1000 m (2950 m - 1950 m)*

Day 15

Your day will start with a trip to Khor Virap Monastery - a historic site located amidst the Ararat Valley. Here at the place of the monastery once was a prison where Gregory the Illuminator suffered for 13 years for preaching Christianity in Armenia. Nowhere else in Armenia there is such a beautiful view of the biblical Ararat Mount - here from the monastic hill, it seems so close and majestic. Your trekking will start from Yeghegis town and the trail will lead you till Smbataberd Fortress. During the way, you will enjoy the beautiful view of the Teksar Mountains. Your day will end with a transfer to Zorats Karer (Qarahuge) stone complex. The complex is a real mystery for scientists; the main version states that it is an ancient observatory like Stonehenge.

Overnight: *Hotel in Sisian*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 16

The trekking will start from Ltsen village and the trail will lead you to Tatev Monastery. Tatev is the gem of Armenian medieval architecture. It is located on the edge of the high cliff from which opens a stunning view. The area is also well-known for its cableway called “Wings of Tatev”, it is the longest cableway in the world.

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Duration: *5-7 hours*

Asc | Desc: *600 m (1545 m - 2100 m - 1590 m)*

Day 17

That will be your last trekking day in Armenia. You will start trekking from Tatev Monastery and head to Devil's Bridge. The last day excursion will be at Noravank Monastery. It is one of the most beautiful monastic complexes in Armenia, built-in the XIII century. The monastery is surrounded by fascinating red rocks.

Overnight: *Hotel in Yerevan*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Duration: *2-3 hours*

Asc | Desc: *600 m (1545 m - 976 m)*

Day 18

That will be your last day in Armenia. It will start with a nice city tour around famous Yerevan sights and then you will be transferred to the airport. Your tour will include such amazing sights as Republic Square, Opera and Balet Theatre, the Cascade, and much more. Your guide will let you plunge into the cozy atmosphere of that hospitable city. With great memories and unforgettable emotions, you will head to the airport for departure.



Booking terms and conditions

Once we receive your application and confirm all tour details with you, we will send a deposit invoice. After the deposit of 200 EUR/USD/GBP/AUD per person (depending on the tour price) is received, we will start your hotel reservation and other service booking and will send your Tour Voucher with all the trip details.

Payment Terms

After you have booked the tour, it is necessary to make a non-refundable deposit of 200 EUR/USD/GBP/AUD, which will provide our coordinators with the possibility to start organizing a trip (hotel reservation, food, transportation, etc.). Final payment could be made after your arrival on the spot. We reserve the right to cancel your booking and apply the relevant cancellation charges (detailed below) if we do not receive all payments at the due time.

Cancellation of the tour

If you or a member of your group wants to cancel the tour, please, inform our company as soon as possible in writing form. Please, note that the prepayment (200 EUR/USD/GBP/AUD) is non-refundable, however, you can use it throughout the year and book another tour. In this case, our company will have to charge an extra 200 EUR/USD/GBP/AUD for re-booking the hotel.

Rights and obligations

Tours provided by our company are planned for many months before their inception and are not subject to change or cancellation. Under the obligation of forced circumstances (weather, holidays) we can make some changes in the itinerary, however, all that relates to services and attractions will remain unchanged.

Please note that our tours require a minimum number of participants – 2 persons. We reserve the right to cancel the trip if any tour will not have the minimum number of participants. We will inform you about the cancellation of the tour no later than 30 days before the start and will do the full refund of the amount paid, including the prepayment.

We also request immediately and promptly report all complaints and any claims during the tour. If possible, all problems will be solved. If the tourist does not report any complaint, the compensation will not be implemented.

Please, also note that the company AraraTour is not liable for services not included in the tour price. Our responsibility is limited only to the extent provided by our tour.

Force majeure or any other event which is beyond our control and which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part frees both parties from liability or obligation. In case of Force majeure, we don't issue any refund.

Insolvency or bankruptcy insurance

Tour operator Arara guarantees the refund of clients' money for unfulfilled services even in the case of the company's insolvency or bankruptcy.