

Food & Wine – Gastronomic Tour to Armenia

Key information

Duration: 8 days / 7 nights

Best season: May - October

Tour type: Small group 3-13 people

What's included:

Transfers from/to the airport, accommodation 7 nights (3* hotels, double rooms), 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, welcome dinner, English speaking guide services, comfortable vehicle during the tour, all master classes as per program, all wine tastings as per program, all entrance fees, 1 bottle of water per day (0.5lt.)

What's not included:

Flights, visa fee, medical insurance

Itinerary in brief

Day 1 - Arrival - Yerevan City Tour

Day 2 - Saghmosavank - Amberd - Voskevaz Winery

Day 3 - Geghard - Garni - Lavash Baking - Ararat Brandy Factory

Day 4 - Khor Virap - Areni - Noravank - Hermon - BBQ Making

Day 5 - Selim Pass - Noratus - Sevan - Sevanavank - Yerevan

Day 6 - Vagharshapat - Machanents - Yerevan

Day 7 - Free day

Day 8 - Departure



Detailed itinerary

Day 1

The tour will begin with a city tour around Yerevan – the ancient city which is 29 years older than the Eternal City of Rome. Nowadays Yerevan is a lively and charming city with green parks, pink buildings, cheerful and hospitable people. From the observation platform of the Victory Park, you will admire the whole city from a bird's eye view. The walk will continue to the Cascade – this unique construction is a museum of modern art, as well as a favorite place of Yerevan residents. Further, you will walk along the main street of the city, see the Opera and Ballet Theater and several central streets of Yerevan. In the evening, you will have a welcome dinner and a wine tasting at the wine restaurant.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan

Meals: Dinner

Duration: 5-6 hours

Length: 40 km

Day 2

In the morning you will head to Saghmsovank Monastery located atop the yawning gorge carved by the Kasakh River. Amazing view of the canyon will open in front of you once you reach the monastery. You will continue uphill to the Amberd fortress proudly standing on the foot of Mount Aragats (2300 meters above sea). Amberd was once the patrimony of Pahlavuni princes and was a strategically important stronghold of the Armenian kings of Bagratuni. The lunch will be organized in the yard of the local resident house. A bit later you will head to the real wine castle. It is Voskevaz Winery the name of which is translated as "a golden bunch". Here you will have a wonderful tour around the old winery. You will get acquainted with all the stages of wine fermentation and taste the wines that received the gold and silver medals at MUNDUS VINI exhibition held in Germany.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Duration: 6-7 hours

Length: 130 km

Day 3

After breakfast at the hotel, you will head to the picturesque Azat River Canyon, where Geghard Cave Monastery is located. You will continue your trip to Garni Pagan Temple of the 1st century AD, the only preserved sample of Hellenistic architecture in the Caucasus region. The surrounding landscape with deep Azat River Gorge and Geghama Mountain Range gives a distinct charm to the temple. Your lunch will be served outdoors, accompanied by traditional bread baking demonstration in tonir (oven in the ground). Hot, newly baked lavash with cheese and fresh greens smells fantastic and is worth tasting. You will continue to Yerevan to taste some excellent cognacs in ArArAt Brandy Company. In Armenia, the cognac making tradition goes back to the 19th century. ArArAt trademark of Yerevan Brandy Company is well known over the world.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Duration: 6-7 hours

Length: 100 km



Day 4

After breakfast, you will head to the south to Khor Virap Monastery which offers the best view of Mount Ararat. In clear days Biblical Ararat seems so close as if on the hand reach. You will continue your trip to the second largest winemaking areas of Armenia, Arpa River Valley. This region is well known for its endemic sort of grape Areni, the red wine made of this grape. In Areni caves the archaeologists found the oldest winemaking facilities in the world. The next stop will be at Noravank Monastery – another gem of the Armenian architecture which stands amidst the red rock valley. Then you will go to Yeghegnadzor town to meet winemaker Arman. He will treat you to local wines and vodka. After lunch, you will head to a cozy rural hotel in the village of Hermon, located in the valley of incomparable beauty. During the dinner, the hospitable hosts will share the most valuable skills of cooking Armenian barbeque. The appetizing aroma of barbeque prepared by your own hands – what can sound more tempting? The hotel has all the conveniences for a cozy evening rest.

Overnight: Hotel in Yeghegnadzor

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Duration: 7-8 hours

Length: 150 km

Day 5

This day you will have a very scenic journey along the section of the Great Silk Road. Here you will have an opportunity to see one of the well-preserved caravanserais where merchants and travelers stayed for an overnight during their journey. In a few kilometers, you will reach azure Lake Sevan. It is one of the highest and largest freshwater lakes in the world, located at about 2000 meters above the sea level. Have you ever tried cheese aged in wine? If not, you will have such an opportunity as we will organize a meeting with an interesting person who prepares such dainties with great success. A little later you will spend some pleasant time at Lake Sevan and then continue your tour to Tsakhkunq village. Here the chef cooker Yuri will surprise you with dishes made according to old recipes, as well as conduct a master class for you.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Duration: 7-8 hours

Length: 240 km

Day 6

In the morning you will have a trip to Echmiadzin town – the religious center of all Armenians. First, you will visit the church of St. Hripsime (7th century), which is one of the most beautiful Armenian churches of the early Middle Ages. It was built on the place of the death of one of the Christian virgins who fled to Armenia from Rome. The main sight of the town is Echmiadzin Cathedral which is considered one of the first Christian cathedrals in the world. It is included in the UNESCO heritage list. Lunch will be served in a unique art center, where the owners will share with you their secrets of Armenian traditional sweet cake preparation.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Duration: 5-6 hours

Length: 60 km

Day 7

Free day will allow you to explore the capital yourself.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan

Meals: Breakfast



Day 8

Transfer to the airport, departure.



Booking terms and conditions

Once we received your application, confirmed all tour details with you, we will send a deposit invoice. After the deposit of 50-100 euro 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 50-100 euros, 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 (50-100 euros) 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 100 euros for re-booking the hotel.

Rights and obligations

Tours provided by our company are planned for many months before its inception and are not the subject of 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 company's own insolvency or bankruptcy.

