

## Mountain Bike Tour to Armenia

### Key information

Duration: 8 days / 7 nights

Best season: June - September

Tour type: Small group of 3-13 people

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### What's included:

Transfer during the tour, conductor car (4-wheel drive), meals: breakfast, lunch box, 1 bottle of water per day (0.5lt.), guiding services, entrance fees

### What's not included:

Flights, visa fee, medical insurance, bike rental (price per day is EUR 10 per day)

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### Itinerary in brief

Day 1 - Arrival in Yerevan

Day 2 - Geghard - Khosrov - Gilan - Garni - Yerevan

Day 3 - Tsovagyugh - Sevan - Drakhtik

Day 4 - Jermuk

Day 5 - Off-road zone - Goris

Day 6 - Tatev - Yerevan

Day 7 - Aragats - Amberd - Echmiadzin

Day 8 - Departure



## Detailed itinerary

### Day 1

The day starts with the arrival in Zvartnots international airport. Assembly and adjustment of the bikes will be right after the transfer to the hotel and then you will have a greeting dinner in a restaurant. Yerevan is the capital of Armenia, its largest city and the administrative, cultural, and industrial centre. Yerevan is often referred to as the city of contradictions where modernity is interweaving with antiquity. It is filled with a cosy atmosphere; there is no hustle and bustle and you will feel friendliness and hospitality. More interesting facts about Yerevan, you will learn the next day during your guided city tour.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Yerevan

**Meals:** Dinner

### Day 2

After breakfast you will leave early in the morning and will go to Geghard Monastery which is founded in the IV century. In early period, this cave construction was called Ayrivank (Cave monastery), and for XIII century — Gegard, in honor of the Sacred spear which is stored in the monastery. It was one of the largest cultural centers of medieval Armenia. After the excursion around the monastery, you will be lifted with bicycles to the top by trucks. From there you will start your way through cycling through mountains and over Geghard Monastery. The road goes on a plateau, after you will go down to Khosrov forest state reserve. You will reach an ancient monastery Aghjots (XIII century). After the survey of the monastery, you will continue going down to the river, (small climb 100m in length) to the village Gilan where you will have a meeting with local people and will have a lunch with them. Then you will continue your way, without leaving the reserve. You will climb 1, 5 km. After leaving the reserve, you will go down to Azat gorge. There is a significant natural monument called "The symphony of stones". After seeing this natural beauty, you will climb to the city Garni. The cars will already be there, waiting for you to take you to Garni temple (II-I B.C.). After an excursion, you will come back to Yerevan.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Yerevan

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Bike trail length:** 30 km

**Day 3** After breakfast in hotel you will go to the village Tsovagyugh. There, you'll begin your cycling from 2000 meters above sea level, which is an excellent acclimatization for you. Then you'll start climbing, and the destination will be 2500 meters above sea level. The length of the journey is 13 km. From the whole journey the most difficult part is the last 1.5 km. After you reach the top you will enjoy the magnificent view of mountains, villages, nature and Sevan Lake. After having a snack, you will begin the descent to the village Drakhtik. During the cycling you will be amazed with the view of the nature. After reaching the village you will be transferred to the hotel, which is not far from the Beach of Sevan Lake. So, if you want, you can swim there. You will also have dinner there.

**Overnight:** Hotel at Lake Sevan

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Bike trail length:** 31 km

### Day 4

Morning will start with biking. During it you will see the beauties of nature, after which you will get to the sanatorium center city Jermuk (2000m high from sea level). This day's riding will be 3000 m high from sea level. During the trip you will visit two amazing lakes. And in the evening, you will have the opportunity to walk around the city Jermuk.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Jermuk

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Bike trail length:** 37 km



### Day 5

On the fifth day, right from the hotel you will get on the bikes and ride to your next point. You will leave the city and turn to the left on off-road. You will climb up about 9 km. After reaching the highway you will be transferred to city Goris. And have an overnight there.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Goris

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Bike trail length:** 23 km off-road

### Day 6

After breakfast the bus will take you to Goris city, after which you will go to your riding point. You will ride in the woods, above gorges. After it you will get to the one of the most famous monasteries of Armenia, which is called Tatev monastery. You will see the ropeway "Ta Tever" which is recorded by Guinness World Records as the longest ropeway in the world. The journey will be relaxing, as the route is not so long. On your way you will visit a unique church of Xth century, which has a great architecture. You will also see Vorotan gorge from above, which is really impressive. At the end of your way you will be amazed by the beauty of Tatev monastery. After having an excursion, the car will take you to Yerevan.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Yerevan

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Bike trail length:** 34 km

### Day 7

Early in the morning you will be transferred to the lake Kari, which is situated 3200m above sea level, under Aragats Mountain. Here you will start the climb until 3700-3800m above sea level. After you go down to the lake Kari you will continue your way to Amberd fortress (V-VII centuries). The climbing part is not too long; it is steep and difficult, so you should climb slowly. But during the journey you will enjoy surroundings. In Amberd fortress you will have an excursion after which the car will take you to Echmiadzin Cathedral Monastery (301-303 centuries). You'll see the ruins of Zvartnots temple (7th century, UNESCO World Heritage Site), that was a miracle of its time. After your excursion, you will be transferred to Yerevan.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Yerevan

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Bike trail length:** 21 km

### Day 8

Transfer to the airport, departure.



### **The stuff you should have with you during the tour**

- Biking helmet
- Biking gloves
- Biking shorts
- Backpack 25-30 liters
- Biking sunglasses
- Lights (headlights, lights for bike)
- Wind stopper clothes □ Waterproof clothes
- Warm clothes (jackets, gloves, heats...)
- Hygiene accessories
- Spare tubes
- Other spears and things for your bike
- Personal and other things

### **Additional**

- Check the brakes (pads, levers, fluid, brake cables)
- Pay attention on tires
- Check suspension
- Check gear shifting and cables

### **ATTENTION!**

Some parts of the tour are crossing high altitude; because of the weather (for example snow) the route can be changed during the tour.



### **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.

