

## CATALOG OF INDIVIDUAL GUIDED TOURS

### **Yerevan - old and new. City tour, Yerevan Brandy factory (6-7 hours)**

**Available - every day except Sunday**

The capital of Armenia - **Yerevan** was founded in 782 BC, on the site of the ancient fortress of Erebuni. Yerevan is often called the "pink city" due to the fact that many buildings here are built of pink tuff. Walking around Yerevan is the best way to truly immerse yourself in the culture, history and life of the Armenian capital.

During a sightseeing tour (at the request of guests, the tour can be carried out by car with stops) guests will see the main **Republic Square** with musical fountains, where the **Government building** and the National Art Gallery are located.

We will walk along **Abovyan street** (the street is one of the oldest streets and the first in the city was named Astafyan street). We will visit the architectural **complex Cascade**. One of the most futuristic and large-scale buildings in the USSR, the Cascade was originally built to connect the lower and upper parts of the city. Today, in the park adjacent to the Cascade, there is a museum of modern art, which presents the sculptural works of such masters as Fernando Botero, Barry Flanagan and many others. And those who overcome the 572 steps of the stairs will be able to admire the view of the city.

During the tour we will also visit the **Blue Mosque**, the **City Hall of Yerevan**, as well as the **Parliament building** (one of the five most beautiful parliament buildings in the world).



After the walk, we will visit the **Yerevan Brandy Factory**, where we will take part in a sightseeing tour, visit the aging hall, the alley named after Aznavour, the **museum of the factory**. At the end of the tour there will be a tasting (3 types of cognac, VIP package).



Price for 1 person, in US dollars (depends on the group size)

Price	Number of participants							
	1	2	3	4	5-6	7-10	11-15	16-20
Full program	205	120	91	81	75	66	58	53
Without Brandy Factory	171	86	57	47	41	32	23	19

## Garni, Geghard, bread baking (5-6 hours)

Available - daily

Visit to **Geghard monastery**. The monastery was founded in the 4th century on the site of a sacred spring originating in a cave. Therefore, it was originally called Ayrivank, which means "cave monastery". Built in the XII-XIII centuries. The modern name Geghard means the **spear** with which, according to legend, the Roman legionary pierced Christ (originally the spear was kept in this monastery, and now it is exhibited in the Etchmiadzin treasury museum). The complex consists of the main church, a vestibule, two churches carved into the rock, a chapel and the Church of the Holy Virgin.

Listed by UNESCO as a World Cultural Heritage Site. The second level of the monastery is famous for its strong



The next stop is the **pagan temple of Garni** (founded in the 1st century AD). The Temple of Garni is the only surviving monument in the region dating back to the era of paganism and Hellenism. After the adoption of Christianity, the temple was turned into the summer residence of the Armenian kings. Today, around the temple, you can see the remains of an ancient fortress, the royal palace and, of great interest, the royal bath with multi-colored mosaics and a mysterious inscription - "We worked without getting anything"

We will take part in the ceremony of **baking Armenian traditional bread lavash** (with tasting). The craftsmanship of baking lavash bread is included in the UNESCO Intangible Heritage List. If you wish, you can organize lunch in one of the gastro yards in the village of Garni (price - from \$15 per person).



Price for 1 person, in US dollars (depends on the group size)

Price	Number of participants							
	1	2	3	4	5-6	7-10	11-15	16-20
Full program	220	112	76	62	54	46	35	30

## Khor Virap, Noravank, Areni village, winery (9-10 hours)

Available - daily

Let's go to the Ararat Valley - the main center of fertility and winemaking in Armenia.

The first stop will be one of the main shrines of Armenia - **Khor Virap Monastery**. Located near the Turkish border, the monastery offers a wonderful view of the biblical **Mount Ararat**. The monastery is located above the underground prison, in which, according to legend, the Armenian king Trdat III imprisoned St. Gregory the Illuminator before he was converted to Christianity by him. The entrance to the underground prison, which has survived to this day, is located in the chapel of St. Gregory, built in 1661. The depth of the underground prison is from 3 to 6 meters. The monastery served as the spiritual center of the Armenian Apostolic Church, where the residence of the Catholicos of all Armenians was located.

An hour's drive from Khor Virap, on the ledge of a narrow winding gorge, is another **Noravank monastery**. Surrounded by sheer red cliffs, the monastery includes a one-of-a-kind two-story church of the Holy Mother of God. On the territory of the monastery, as well as on the walls, you will see a lot of images with traditional Armenian ornaments. Here, on the walls of the vestibule of the Church of St. Karapet, there is a unique **bas-relief depicting Father God**. With his right hand he blesses the Crucifixion, and with his left hand he holds the head of Adam with a dove soaring above it, symbolizing the Holy Spirit. On the territory of the complex there are also **khachkars** created, among other things, by one of the most famous khachkar masters Momik (Khachkar is a type of Armenian architectural monuments, which is a stone stele with a carved image of a cross. The word khachkar is formed from the Armenian roots "khach" - "cross", and "kar" - "stone").



During the tour we will also visit the **Cave of Birds**, which consists of 3 halls and has an area of 500 m<sup>2</sup>. It was in this cave that the world's oldest leather shoes were found, which are more than 5500 years old, a women's skirt attributed to 3900 BC, as well as the world's **oldest winery** (dating back to the 4th millennium BC) .

After the monasteries, it's time to enjoy good Armenian wine. We will visit the **village of Areni**, where many small and medium-sized wineries are located. In one of the **wineries** we will have a guided tour with a tasting.

Price for 1 person, in US dollars (depends on the group size)

Price	Number of participants							
	1	2	3	4	5-6	7-10	11-15	16-20
Full program	263	148	115	95	92	80	66	58
Without winery visit	230	115	82	62	59	47	33	25

## Echmiadzin, Museum "Treasures of Echmiadzin", Zvartnots, Alluria winery (6-7 hours)

Available - every day except Monday

The day will be mainly devoted to the Christian culture of Armenia. We will visit the spiritual center of Armenians **Saint Ejmiatsin**. The first stop will be the **Church of St. Hripsime**. Hripsime, a martyr, for spreading Christianity in Armenia and refusing to marry Trdat III, was tortured and killed. A temple was erected on the site of the death of St. Hripsime in the 7th century. This temple is also a striking example of cruciform central-domed structures.

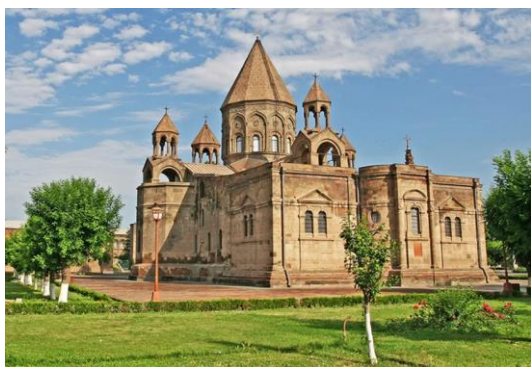
The **Mother cathedral** (the cathedral is closed for restoration, let's take a look at the outside) is one of the oldest Christian buildings in the world. The temple was founded in the 4th century, immediately after the adoption of Christianity in 301, at the place indicated by the first Catholicos Gregory the Illuminator. It is the Etchmiadzin Cathedral that is the spiritual center of the Armenian Apostolic Church, as well as the residence of the Catholicos of All Armenians.

The **museum "Treasures of Etchmiadzin"** presents unique holy relics. One of the most famous treasures is St. Geghard (placed in a silver reliquary) that pierced the side of Christ, the **relics of Noah's Ark** (also placed in a reliquary created in 1968), as well as many other valuable works of art.

In Etchmiadzin we will also visit **the Alluria winery**, where high quality wine is produced. We will walk through the winery, in good weather we will also walk through the vineyards, after which there will be a tasting of the best wines of the manufacturer. If desired, a traditional lunch will be served there, at the winery.

On the way back, we will stop by the **Temple of Zvartnots** (or the Temple of Vigilant Forces or Sleeping Angels). The temple was founded in the 7th century and was the largest temple of early medieval Armenian architecture. In the 10th century, the temple collapsed during an earthquake. The ruins of Zvartnots were discovered by excavations in 1901-1907.

The Cathedral, the churches of Ejmiatsin and the ruins of the Zvartnots temple are included in the UNESCO list of World Cultural Heritage sites.



Price for 1 person, in US dollars (depends on the group size)

Price	Number of participants							
	1	2	3	4	5-6	7-10	11-15	16-20
Full program, with the lunch	230	147	93	110	105	96	88	84
Full program without lunch	197	114	60	77	72	63	55	51

## Lake Sevan, Sevanavank, Dilijan, Goshavank and Haghartsin monasteries (9-10 hours)

Available - daily

During the tour we will visit the blue-eyed beauty of Armenia - **Lake Sevan**. Lake Sevan - the "blue pearl" of Armenia, is the largest lake in the Caucasus and one of the largest mountain freshwater lakes in the world, located at an altitude of 1900 m above sea level.

On the peninsula located in the northwestern part of the lake rises a unique monastery complex - **Sevanavank**. The complex was built in the 9th century, during the reign of the Bagratuni dynasty. Today, two churches stand separately on the hill - St. Arakelots and St. Astvatsatsin (Virgin Mary), which offer amazing views of the lake and mountain ranges.

The next stop will be the **city of Dilijan**. Dilijan is famous as a resort town with unique nature and mild climate. Also here are unique architectural monuments - the monasteries of Haghartsin, Goshavank, khachkars, etc.

A masterpiece of Armenian architecture, the **Haghartsin monastery** complex was founded in the 11th-13th centuries. It was here, high in the mountains, that many hermits found peace and harmony with nature. Today the complex consists of three churches, the oldest of which - the Church of St. Gregory the Illuminator was founded in the XI century. On the territory of the monastery there is also a refectory, built in the XIII.

**Goshavank Monastery**, which bears the name of the famous political figure, scientist, author of the first set of laws Mkhitar Gosh, consists of several churches and a book depository. There are also several very famous **khachkars** on display here (Khachkar is a type of Armenian architectural monuments, which is a stone stele with a carved image of a cross. The word khachkar is formed from the Armenian roots "khach" - "cross", and "kar" - "stone"). It is believed that it was here that the monastery also had a school where manuscripts were compiled and copied.



Price for 1 person, in US dollars (depends on the group size)

Price	Number of participants							
	1	2	3	4	5-6	7-10	11-15	16-20
Full program, with the lunch	313	169	130	105	99	83	69	61
Full program without lunch	247	123	88	66	59	47	33	25