



## Royal Holidays

7 Nights



### Summary

*When you visit Armenia, take the occasion to stop and listen attentively to your inner rhythm. Attune it to the rhythm of the life pulsing through "the country of a found and a lost Eden". Set your pace to its pace - stroll through the bustling avenues of major cities, walk along the quaint streets of provincial towns. Relax on the sun-warmed steps of a hilltop chapel. Enjoy a leisurely conversation in a mountain hamlet - let the flow of the life of the country embrace you. Sharpen your senses and feel Armenia.*

### Overview

**Interest:** group, couple, family  
**Level of Comfort:** 4/5  
**Minimum # of passengers:** none  
**Maximum # of passengers:** none

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**Day 1: Arrival in Yerevan**

*Upon arrival in Yerevan, meet greet and transfer to the selected hotel*

**Day 2: Yerevan City tour**

*Visit Matenadaran - one of the world's largest depositories of ancient manuscripts, pride of Armenian culture. City tour in Yerevan will start with the panoramic view of the city and acquaintance with the Center of the city, Republic Square, the sightseeing of Opera and Ballet building, the Parliament and Residency of the President of Armenia, State University, Mother Armenia Monument, Sports & Concert Complex. A visit to Tsitsernakaberd - a Monument to the Armenian Genocide Victims, as well as the Genocide Victims' Museum, commemorating the 1.5 million Armenians who perished during the first Genocide of the 20th century in the Western Armenia and in the territory of Ottoman Empire. Visit Cascade complex, which is considered the modern art center of Yerevan. Cascade is home to Cafesjian modern art museum. This place becomes even more charming in the evenings, when it is full of people, both locals and tourists from all over the world, enjoying the magic and the warmth of the capital. A visit to one of the biggest and oldest mosques in Caucasus "Blue mosque", which is situated in the heart of Yerevan city. Overnight in Yerevan.*

**Day 3: Yerevan - Ararat Valley - Silk Road – Khor Virap - Yerevan**

*Drive to Ararat valley, visit Khor Virap Church, which is one of the holy places for the Christian world, from where opens the closest and the most spectacular view of the gorgeous biblical mountain Ararat, shining with its two white peaks. Drive back to Yerevan. Overnight in Yerevan.*

**Day 4: Yerevan - Tsaghkadzor - Lake Sevan - Yerevan**

*Drive to Tsaghkadzor (means "gorge of flowers") town, the magical place of forested mountains. Short walking tour around the small town. Opportunity to go up to the mountain peaks by ropeway, where you will catch an unforgettable gorgeous panoramic view of this part of the world. Visit Kecharis monastery. Drive to Lake Sevan, one of the wonders in Armenia. This blue lake is one of the greatest high mountainous freshwater lakes of Eurasia. On a clear and sunny day, the water is often of a deep turquoise colour. Total surface of the lake is 940 km<sup>2</sup>. Climb on Akhtamar peninsula, from where opens a fascinating and breathtaking view on Sevan Lake. Visit Sevanavank Monastery (9th century), which stands in its greatness on the peninsula, overlooking the lake for centuries. Drive back to Yerevan.*

**Day 5: A free day in Yerevan ~ Optional tour: Yerevan - Etchmiadzin - Zvartnots - Yerevan**

*Breakfast at the hotel. A free day in Yerevan. Overnight in Yerevan.*

*Optional tour: Drive to Etchmiadzin City, which used to be an ancient capital of Armenia. Since 4<sup>th</sup> century, it has been considered the largest religious center, the residency of Catholics of all Armenians. Etchmiadzin cathedral is one of the ancient churches in the Christian world, included in the UNESCO World Heritage List (2000). It is the center of Armenian Apostolic Church, founded in 301 A.D by St. Gregory the Illuminator. The museum of the Cathedral, located behind the Altar, has collection of religious artifacts about Holy Mass, subjects made of gold, silver, precious stones, decorations, colossal silver boiler for making the myrrh and legendary Holy spear. A trip to one of the architectural wonders of Armenia - Zvartnots temple (641-661 BC), which got its name from the word "Zvart", which, translated from Armenian, means "joyful and beautiful". The remaining ruins give an idea of the rare beauty of this temple, which is listed as an UNESCO World Heritage Site (2000). Drive back to Yerevan.*

**Day 6: Yerevan - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan**

*Visit the only remaining Pagan temple in Armenia, devoted to the God of Sun – Myrth, in Garni. Photo stop at Charents Arc. A visit to the ruins of Royal Palace and Royal bath-house nearby.*

*Optional: Family hosted lunch in a private village house, with watching the preparation of "Lavash" (Armenian traditional*

*flat bread baked in stone-made oven) by countryside Armenian ladies using the same ancient technology as hundreds of years before. Continue the tour to the uniquely caved Geghard monastery, which dates back to 12<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> centuries,*

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*the name of which means “holy spear” in the honour of the long-preserved spear, the same spear that pierced the body of crucified Christ, which were brought here by Apostle Thaddeus. Drive back to Yerevan.*

**Day 7: Carpet Factory - Shopping day in Yerevan**

*Visit Armenian carpet factory with possibility to watch the production of the handmade rugs. The factory has a showroom where purchases are offered (shipping of rugs to your country is possible). A visit to Vernissage, an open-air exhibition-market. Rare opportunity to do Jewelry and precious stones’ shopping directly from the factories with cheaper than in the market prices.*

*Drop to Dalma Garden or Yerevan Mall for shopping*

**Day 8: Yerevan**

*Transfer to the airport for your departure flight*

*This is a product sheet elaborated in order to give you a quick overview of package suggestions our destination specialists can propose. Make an appointment to order to customize it as per your needs and get a detailed quotation.*

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