

# TOUR PROGRAM



## DAY 1

**15:00 Arrival at the hotel (check-in)**

## DAY 2

**12:00 Armenian Brandy Factory museum: tour the museum and brandy tasting.** An excursion is planned to the place where the legendary ARARAT cognacs are born. Guests will acquaint themselves with the history and traditions of creating Armenian cognac. There will be a special reception and tasting of the best-aged cognacs.

**2:30 Zvartnots Cathedral** is a unique architectural structure in Armenia, completely destroyed 300 years after its construction. You will have the opportunity to stroll through the enchanting surroundings of the temple. Next to the temple, there is also a museum showcasing the history of this magnificent structure

**03:15 Echmiatsin Cathedral** is the main religious building of the Echmiatsin Catholicosate of the Armenian Apostolic Church. The church was built at the beginning of the 4th century after the adoption of Christianity as the state religion in 301-303 in the location of an already existing pagan temple, which symbolized the transition from paganism to Christianity. Etchmiatsin Cathedral is the first official church in the world. It is inscribed into the UNESCO's World Heritage List.

**05:15 Retro evening.** Here, you can immerse yourself in the atmosphere of Soviet Armenia with its way of life, customs, and history, all presented in one place. You will visit a special museum and see objects and exhibits that tell the story of the country's Soviet past. The visit also includes a themed dinner to enhance your experience.

## DAY 3

**09:00 Departure**

**10:15 Dilijan** is a city in the northern Tavush region of Armenia. Dilijan is an important tourist center. In the center of the community is Sharambeyan Street, which is considered the city's historical center, famous for its unique architecture, workshops, galleries, and museums. Dilijan is also noted as a center for hiking, mountain biking, and resort recreation.

**11:20 Monastic complex Haghartsin.** There are plenty of ecological routes in Diljan National Park, accompanied by historical and cultural monuments. One of these monuments is the Haghartsin Monastery Complex, which is located 18 km from Dilijan, rising on a hill surrounded by dense forests.

**12:00 Gata (Armenian Cake)** baking master class in Haghartsin. On the territory of Haghartsin you will find a master class on baking gata, a traditional Armenian delicacy.

### Free time in Dilijan

**04:00 Lake Sevan.** There is no sea in Armenia, but there is Lake Sevan, which is the second-highest freshwater lake in the world after Lake Titicaca in South America. The charm of the peninsula of the blue-eyed Sevan is complemented by one of the architectural gems of medieval Armenia, Sevanavank.

### Back to Yerevan

### 09:30 Departue

**11:00 The ancient city Dvin on the Silk Road.** This route will guide you along the ancient Silk Road, which traversed the capital of Armenia – Dvin. The ruins of this medieval city lie just 30 km from Yerevan. You will delve into the captivating history of the creation and demise of this multicultural city.

**01:00 Khor-Virap Monastery** is located on a high hill and was originally built in 642 in the form of a small chapel over a deep pit full of snakes and poisonous insects, where the condemned were thrown. According to history, Gregory the Illuminator, who spread Christianity in Armenia was also imprisoned here. You will have the opportunity to descend into that pit and experience the mystical aura.

**03:00 Noravank.** Here, you will discover a unique monastery building that was destroyed and plundered by the Tatar-Mongols during their raids, only to be later restored through the efforts of the very same Tatar-Mongols. The monastery is surrounded by red rocks, providing a magnificent view.

**04:30 Areni Cave-1:** Areni Cave is a complex of caves on the bank of Arpa River in the Vayots Dzor region, located in the southeastern part of Armenia. It is also called "Bird's Cave". In 2010, the oldest leather shoe in the world, which is 5.5 thousand years old, was found in the cave. There is at least a four-meter cultural layer in the cave, and excavations continue to this day. You will explore the interior of the cave, transporting you back thousands of years, and allowing you to feel and touch history.

**05:30 Winetour.** The village of Areni is located in the wine-growing region of Armenia, in the Vayots Dzor region. Here you can taste various Armenian wines and get acquainted with the ancient Armenian winemaking traditions. Almost all adult residents of the village of Areni have two professions or occupations, and winemaking is definitely included in their repertoire. According to local winemakers, the secret of good wine here lies in the antiquity of the grape root: the older and deeper the root, the better the wine. 150 tons of 'Areni' grapes are grown here.

### Back to Yerevan

DAY 5

**10:00 Departure**

**12:00 Gyumri** is the second largest city in Armenia. As part of the excursion, you will visit the Museum of National Architecture and Urban Life of Gyumri. In the museum, you will immerse yourself in the life and customs of the city of Gyumri, and immerse yourself in the traditional Armenian interior.

**02:00 Walk through Old Gyumri.** The city was under Persian, Turkish, and Russian rule, and bears cultural and architectural traces of the 19th century, which you will see during the tour.

**04:00 Master class on decorative and applied arts.** The blacksmith tradition of Gyumri was included in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. You will have the opportunity to meet Armenian craftsmen and see how they forge iron, creating examples of works of art and various accessories.

**05:45 Black Fortress** during the Russian-Turkish War. If you are familiar with the history of the bloody Russian-Turkish wars, then in Gyumri we will show you their lifeless witnesses.

**Back to Yerevan**

DAY 6

**10:00 Departure**

**11:00 The pagan Temple of Garni**, once a place of sun worship, is located in the village of Garni, Kotayk region, on the right bank of Azat River. It is a unique pre-Christian structure - an immovable monument of Armenian history and culture. "Here, you will not only be able to appreciate the temple built in the Greco-Roman style but also enjoy the magnificent view from the river gorge.

**12:00 Lavash Baking master-class.** In Armenia, the process of baking Armenian bread – lavash – is very interesting. You will see how Armenian women prepare the dough and place it in a tandoor oven, and the result is delicious bread that you can taste right on the spot.

**04:00 Geghard Monastery** is a medieval monastery complex in Armenia. It is located on the right bank of the Azat River in the Kotayk region. The famous spear with which the Roman soldier pierced the body of Christ is kept here. It was brought to Armenia by the Apostle Thaddeus, one of the first preachers of Christianity. The monastery complex of Geghard is a part of UNESCO World Heritage and one of historical attractions of Armenia. It is impressive how a portion of this monastery complex is integrated into the rock.

**08:00 Walking tour in the center of Yerevan.** You will see the central square, the Opera House, the famous Yerevan Cascade and feel the warm atmosphere of Yerevan evenings.

**Back to Yerevan**

DAY 7

12:00 Check-out.

Bus drop off at airport.



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