

ARMENIA 4 NIGHTS/ 5 DAYS

DAY 1: ARRIVAL

DAY 2: CITY TOUR/ EJMIATSIN/ ZVARTNOTS

DAY 3: VERNISAGE/ GARNI/ GEGHARD/ SEVAN

DAY 4: KHOR VIRAP/ ARENI/ NORAVANK

DAY 5: DEPARTURE

DAY 1: (May 12th, Thursday) ARRIVAL



Meet the tourists at the airport.
Transfer to the hotel.

Lunch independent.
Dinner independent.
Overnight at the hotel in Yerevan.

EJMIATSIN/ ZVARTNOTS

Breakfast at the hotel.

The day starts with the visit to **History Museum**. Providing an excellent introduction to the history of the city, the museum is an ideal place to start your exploration of Yerevan, new and old.

Visit **Matenadaran**. The Matenadaran after St. Mesrop Mashtotz is a scientific research institute of old manuscripts at the Government of the Republic of Armenia. Originals and hand-written copies of more than 17,000 manuscripts and around 300,000 archive documents not only in Armenian, but also Greek, Latin, Arabic, Persian, Syrian, Jewish, Hindu, Japanese, etc. are kept in the Matenadaran.



DAY 2: (May 13th, Friday) CITY TOUR/

Continue with a walking tour of Yerevan exploring various layers of its history – medieval shrines hidden behind imposing Soviet-style façades, narrow streets of the old center with sunlight playing on its pink walls, **Republic Square, Cascade, Opera House** and ambitious project of independent Armenia – **North Avenue**.

Continue to **Echmiadzin** - the holy seat of the Supreme Patriarch- Catholicos of all Armenians. The Cathedral was built in 303 on the site of a pagan temple after the adoption of Christianity as a state religion in 301.

Visit **St. Hripsime Church** (7th century).

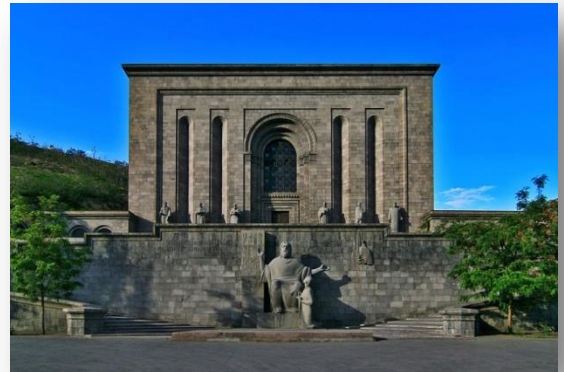
A few kilometers from Ejmiadzin are the ruins of the 7th century AD **Temple of Zvartnots** (built in 641—661), which was to suppress Ejmiadzin cathedral by its grandeur. The remnants of Zvartnots are a wonderful sight, even in ruins. Only the lower parts of the walls and individual fragments have been survived.

An excursion to **Ararat Brandy factory**.

Lunch independent.

Dinner independent.

Overnight at the hotel in Yerevan.



DAY 3: (May 14th, Saturday) VERNISAGE/ GARNI/ GEGHARD/ SEVAN



Breakfast at the hotel.

The day starts with the visit to **Vernisage**, the huge arts & crafts market, the best place in Caucasus to buy souvenirs. **Open only on weekends** it is a lot of fun to wonder in.

Drive to **Garni & Geghard**.

Here, in the harmony of the relief and the virgin nature you will see the pagan **Garni** architectural complex of the 1st century and feel the spirit of ancient ages.

Another ten minutes ride through the gorge will take you to the cave monastery of **Geghard** (12th –13th centuries).

Continue to **Sevan Lake**, the emerald of Armenia.

Explore romantic **Sevanavank monastery**.



According to an inscription in one of the churches, the monastery of Sevanavank was founded in 874 by Princess Mariam, the daughter of Ashot I (who became a king a decade later). At the time, Armenia was still struggling to free itself from Arab rule.

Back to **Yerevan**.

Lunch independent.

Dinner independent.

Overnight at the hotel in Yerevan.

DAY 4: (May 15th, Sunday) KHOR VIRAP/

ARENI/ NORAVANK

Breakfast at the hotel.

Drive to **Khor Virap**, the site of royal prison where St. Gregory the Illuminator was held for thirteen years before converting Armenia into the first Christian nation in 301. Guided by the remote majesty of biblical mount Ararat, we explore the site, its underground chambers, elegant chapels and are captivated by the ascetic atmosphere of the site.

Visit **Areni Wine Factory**.

En route visit **Noravank**, 12th century monastery complex set in a canyon rich with rare flora.

It is Located 122 km from Yerevan in a narrow gorge made by the Amaghu River, near the city of Yeghegnadzor, Armenia. The gorge is known for its tall, sheer, brick-red cliffs, directly across from the monastery. The monastery is best known for its two-storey Surb Astvatsatsin (Holy Mother of God) church, which grants access to the second floor by way of a narrow stone-made staircase jutting out from the face of building.

Lunch independent.

Dinner independent.

Overnight at the hotel in Yerevan.



DAY 5: (May 16th, Monday) DEPARTURE

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer to the airport.