

On Noah's Traces

13.05. – 22.05.2016

03.06. – 12.06.2016

09.09. – 18.09.2016

30.09. – 09.10.2016



A country between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, between Europe and Asia inhabited since the Stone Age, is Armenia, the oldest Christian country in the world. Get familiar with the people and traditions of the country and take beautiful moments and experiences away with you. Even months after they will bring a smile to your face. The descendants of Noah will warmly welcome you in Armenia!

Experience the difference!

Programme

Cultural Travel

Day 1

Yerevan

Arrival at Zvartnots International Airport. Welcome by our English speaking guide. Transfer to the hotel. Leisure time to rest and settle in.

Day 2

Yerevan: Matenadaran – Megerian Carpets – Tsitsernakaberd – City Tour

Yerevan – one of the oldest cities in the world welcomes you and invites you for a nice city stroll. First, we visit Matenadaran Museum- the largest storage of spiritual and cultural heritage, and ancient manuscripts about the traditions and centuries-old history of Armenia. The building is located at the end of Mesrop Mashtots Boulevard and overlooks the whole city. Next, we visit the Megerian Carpet factory where we admire a wide range of diverse hand-knotted carpets. After a traditional lunch, we explore Tsitsernakaberd, the Armenian Genocide Museum and Memorial. After resting, we invite you to take another walk through the city.

Day 3

Yerevan - Amberd - Aragats -Yerevan

Aragats (4090 m) highest mountain in Armenia is our destination for today. On the way, we will explore a partially destroyed fortress of Amberd (2300 m above sea level) dating back to the 11th century. The complex of Amberd includes a rich variety of buildings: the tower, the bathhouse, the defensive walls and the Vahramashen Church. There is also a pleasant picnic spot next to the ruins and we will have a nice picnic there. Afterwards we will head to the Qari Lich. "Stone Lake" is a magnificent high mountain lake located on the top of Aragats. It is a popular destination for climbers. We will have the opportunity to admire the beauty of the alpine landscapes, with their beautiful variety of colors and natural resources, and we will breathe the fresh mountain air. Depending on your wishes, we can also go hike up to the East Summit (3650 m above sea level). Afterwards, we return to Yerevan. Leisure time.

Day 4

Yerevan – Geghard – Basalt Organs – Garni – Yerevan

At the beginning of the day we will drive to the majestic Lake Sevan, the splendid blue pearl of Armenia. We will explore the Church of Sevanavank with its five holy cross-stones located at the top of the peninsula. Then we will travel to Kotayk, the western province of Armenia. At the entrance to the Upper Azat Valley you will visit the Monastery of Geghard which dates back to the 13th century. In 2000, it was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The trip continues onwards to Garni, where we will admire the symphony of stones, the wonderful ensemble of organ pipes made of basalt. Finally, we will hike up to the pagan temple of Garni, a temple that dates back to the 1st century AD. Return to Yerevan. Leisure time.

Day 5

Yerevan - Khor Virap - Zangakatun – Areni – Noravank – Karahundschi - Goris

The picturesque South of Armenia awaits us with its fertile valleys and magnificent landscapes. We explore Khor Virap Monastery, a famous pilgrimage dating back to the 4th century AD. Armenia has an ancient winemaking tradition. Next, in Zangakatun, we visit the house-museum of the most eminent Armenian writer, Paruyr Sevak. Armenia has an ancient winemaking tradition. You will have the opportunity to taste Armenian wine and have a traditional lunch at a family vineyard in Areni, in the "Armenian Bordeaux". To the South of Areni, in the Amaghu Gorge, we will admire the beauty of Noravank, one of the most beautiful monasteries in Armenia. On the way to Goris, we will visit Karahunj - one of the most ancient megalithic

constructions of the world. It is referred to as "the Armenian Stonehenge" (5000-5500 BC). Arrival in Goris. Leisure time.

Day 6

Goris – Khndzoresk - Tatev - Goris

Morning drive to the old village Khndzoresk. Exploration of numerous cave dwellings, and drive to the Monastery of Tatev. It is an important spiritual center of Armenia where a number of manuscripts were produced. From the ropeway "Wings of Tatev" you enjoy breathtaking panoramic views and stunning scenery of the steep gorge of the Vorotan river.

Day 7

Goris – Selim – Noratus – Hayravank – Sevanavank - Dilijan

Exploratory trip to the caravanserai of Selim. Selim Pass also offers you picturesque views into the valley below. The trip continues to Noratus, famous for its medieval cemetery of cross-stones. After we drive to the majestic Lake Sevan, the "Blue Pearl of Armenia". Near the village Hayravank, on the western shore of Lake Sevan we will explore the monastery of Hayravank from the 9th century. We will visit the church of Sevanavank with its five holy cross-stones located at the top of the Sevanavank Peninsula. In the evening we head to Dilijan. Time for rest.

Day 8

Dilijan - Haghartsin - Goshavank - Yerevan

Today we'll experience the picturesque city of Dilijan, also known as Armenian Switzerland. The city is surrounded by dense forests, pristine landscapes and gently sloping hills, forming a type of green wall around the city. We will visit the monasteries of Haghartsin (11th C.) and Goshavank (12-13th C.) located very close to Dilijan. These monasteries are a testament to the old culture and history of Armenia. Return to Yerevan. Free time at your disposal.

Day 9

Yerevan – Zvartnots - Etchmiadzin – Aknashen – Yerevan

Exploration trip to Etchmiadzin, the most important religious center of Armenia. On the way we will visit the ruins of the circular Cathedral of Zvartnots and St. Hripsime Church. Both date back to the 7th century. Later on, we will pay a visit to the Cathedral of Etchmiadzin. The trip continues to the village of Aknashen. Exciting encounters and warm hospitality will invite you to the Armenian table, interesting conversations, laughter and joy. You will get the unique opportunity to take part in the preparation of Lavash, traditional Armenian flat bread and taste Armenian specialties in a warm and cozy atmosphere. Full of splendid impressions, we drive back to Yerevan. Preparation for journey back home.

Day 10

Return flight

Transfer to the airport. End of our services.

NOTES: The tour route may be modified due to reasons of security, climate conditions, unexpected environmental damages, problems with road access, strikes, or local festivities. In such cases, we will strive to find the best possible solution.

HISTORY, CULTURE, LANDSCAPE

Price per Person: 1090 €

Single room surcharge: 188 €

Small group: 4-12 people

Services offered

Transport

All transfers and transportation

Supervision

Local English speaking guide

Geologist (1 day)

Architect (1 day)

Accommodation, Food, Drinks

9 nights in comfortable hotels (double room), guesthouse

Full Board

Drinking Water

Entrance

All entrance tickets

Travel preparation

Information-meeting prior to the trip

Travel documentation

Maps

***International flight is not included in the price.**