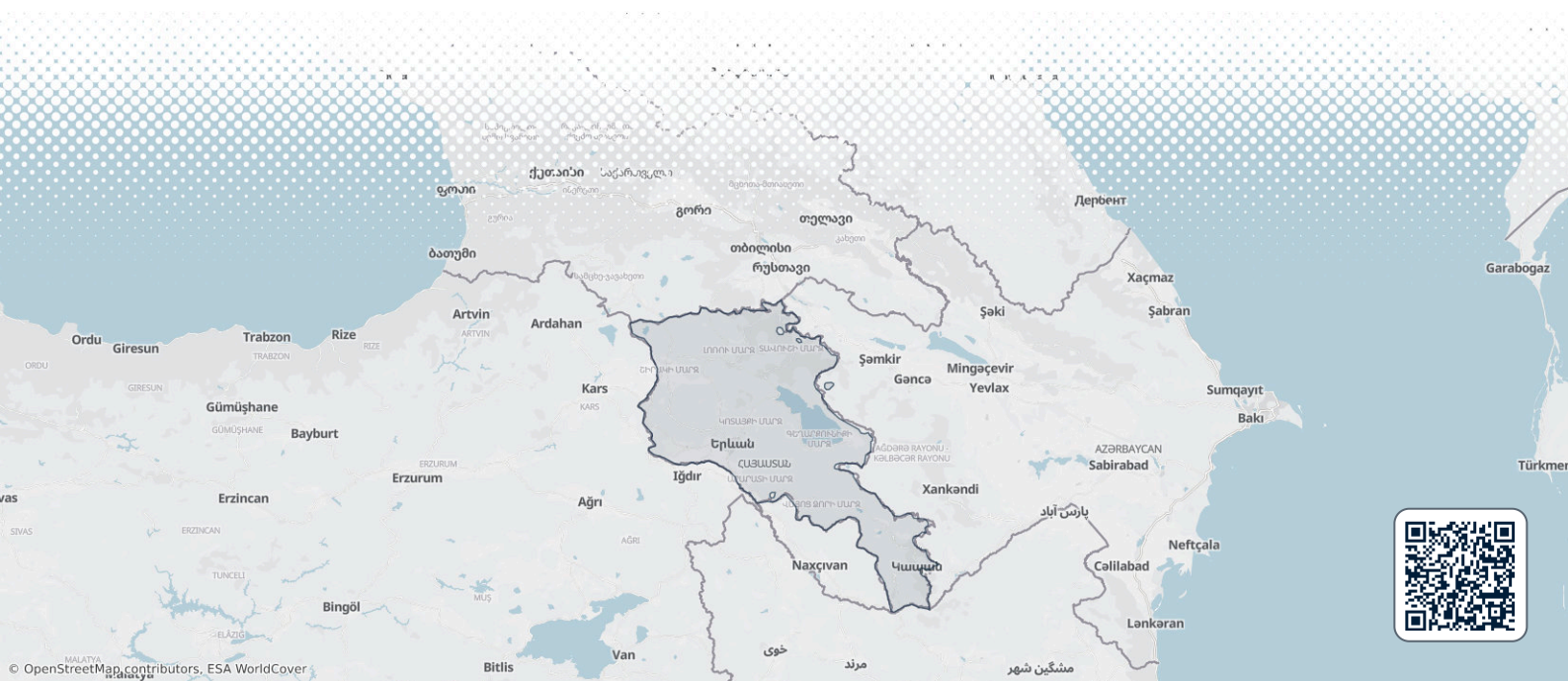




Armenia

TRAVEL GUIDE



Overview

Armenia is a small, **landlocked** country in the South Caucasus, framed by high mountains and deep gorges. Its east is dominated by Lake Sevan, one of the largest alpine lakes in the world. From Yerevan, the capital, the snow-capped peak of Mount Ararat is visible across the closed border with Turkey. Yerevan itself was founded in 782 BC, older than Rome.

In 301 AD, Armenia became the first nation to adopt Christianity as its state religion, and that history still shapes the landscape. Ancient monasteries sit carved into cliffs and hidden in remote gorges across the country. Away from the capital, travel moves at a slower pace, through wine villages and small towns built around old churches. Armenia suits travelers who enjoy history, mountain scenery, and long meals built around local food and wine. It works well on its own or paired with a trip to neighboring Georgia.

Money & payments

Currency

CURRENCY	1 AMD	1 AMD
AMD	0.00246 EUR	0.002763 USD
	1 EUR = 406.44 AMD	1 USD = 361.9 AMD

 Cards accepted in major venues

Cards are accepted in most hotels, restaurants, and shops in Yerevan and other cities. Cash is still useful in villages, small guesthouses, local markets, and for marshrutka (shared minivan) fares. ATMs are common in Yerevan and provincial capitals, but scarce near remote monasteries and mountain villages, so withdraw cash before heading out. Currency exchange offices are widespread and usually offer better rates than hotels.

Typical costs

Rough prices in touristic areas, per person

 Hotel (double room, per night) mid-range hotel, double room	15,000 – 35,000 AMD €37 – €86
 Dinner (mid-range restaurant) mid-range restaurant, for two	8,000 – 16,000 AMD €20 – €39
 Inexpensive meal	2,000 – 4,000 AMD €5 – €10
 Local beer 0.5 l, local lager	500 – 1,000 AMD €1 – €2
 Coffee	500 – 1,200 AMD €1 – €3
 Water 0.5 l bottled	150 – 300 AMD €0 – €1
 Transit ticket Yerevan bus or metro, single ride	100 – 150 AMD €0 – €0
 Taxi (per km)	150 – 250 AMD €0 – €1

Tipping

Tipping is not deeply rooted in Armenian tradition, but it has become common in Yerevan's restaurants and with tour guides.

Restaurant
~10%, or round up the bill

Optional

Taxi
round up to the nearest 500 AMD

Optional

Hotel
500-1,000 AMD per bag or per night for staff

Optional

Tour guide
5-10% of the tour price

Optional

Bar

Not customary

Check your bill before tipping — some tourist-facing restaurants already add a service charge. Outside the capital, tipping is less common and never expected.

Electricity

Armenia uses Type C and F plugs at 220 V / 50 Hz, the standard European two-pin sockets. Most modern phone and laptop chargers work without an adapter.

⚡ ELECTRICITY



Type C

⚡ 220 V · 50 Hz

⚡ ELECTRICITY



Type F

Language

Armenian, written in its own distinct alphabet, is the official language. Signs and menus in Yerevan are usually shown in Armenian and English, but transliteration varies, so place names can appear spelled several different ways. Russian is widely understood, especially by older generations, and is useful outside the capital. English is common in Yerevan's hotels, restaurants, and tourist sites, but less so in rural villages.

Useful phrases

Hello	Բարև Barev
Thank you	Շնորհակալություն Shnorhakalutyun
Please	Խնդրում եմ Khndrum em
Yes	Այո Ayo
No	Ոչ Voch
Goodbye	Ցտեսություն Tstesutyun
Excuse me	Ներողություն Neroghutyun
Cheers	Կենաց Kenatsd

Staying connected

Local SIM cards from Viva-MTS, Beeline, or Ucom are inexpensive and easy to buy at Zvartnots Airport or shops in Yerevan. You will need to show your passport to register a new number, as with any local number. eSIM options are also available and can be set up before you arrive. Coverage is good across the country, though it can drop out in remote mountain valleys. There are no unusual content or access restrictions for travelers.

Safety & emergencies

Armenia is a safe country for travelers, with low rates of violent crime. The most common issues are overcharging by unlicensed taxi drivers and pickpocketing in crowded markets or on public transport, so take the usual precautions with your belongings. Mountain roads can be poorly lit and steep, so drive carefully after dark, especially in winter. Armenia's land borders with Turkey and Azerbaijan are closed to travelers; only the crossings with Georgia and Iran are open. Many governments advise against travel near the border with Azerbaijan, so check current travel advisories before planning a route through Syunik province in the south.

Emergency numbers

* GENERAL EMERGENCY	☑ POLICE	☑ AMBULANCE	🔥 FIRE BRIGADE
112	102	103	101

Health

Tap water in Yerevan and most cities is safe to drink, drawn from mountain springs. Look for the **pulpulak**, Yerevan's public drinking fountains, found on almost every street corner. In rural areas or after heavy rain, bottled water is the safer choice. Pharmacies are common in cities and marked with a green cross, though English-speaking staff are not guaranteed outside Yerevan. No special vaccinations are required to enter Armenia, but routine vaccines should be up to date. Talk to a doctor before your trip if you plan extensive hiking at altitude.

Visas & entry

Entry requirements depend on your nationality. Citizens of many countries, including the EU, UK, and Japan, can enter Armenia visa-free for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Citizens of Russia and other CIS countries can stay visa-free for up to 180 days a year. Travelers from most other countries can apply for an e-visa online before arrival, or a visa on arrival at Yerevan's Zvartnots Airport if they hold a valid Schengen, US, UK, or similar visa.

Visa and entry requirements change frequently. Verify current requirements with the official immigration authority or your country's embassy before travel.

Etiquette

Dress modestly when visiting churches and monasteries — cover your shoulders and knees; women may want to bring a light scarf for their head, though it is not strictly enforced at most sites. At [Blue Mosque](#), Yerevan's working mosque, remove your shoes before entering the prayer hall.

Armenians greet close friends and family with a light cheek kiss; a handshake is standard for a first meeting. Meals often include a series of toasts led by a designated toastmaster, especially at family gatherings and celebrations — it is polite to wait for a toast before drinking. Photography is generally welcome, but ask before photographing people directly, especially in villages. Bargaining is uncommon in shops but acceptable at open-air markets like Yerevan's Vernissage.

Holidays & opening hours

Public holidays

Jan 1	New Year's Day
Jan 5	Christmas Day
Jan 28	Army Day
Mar 8	Women's Day
Apr 24	Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day
May 1	Labour Day
May 9	Victory and Peace Day
May 28	Republic Day
Jul 5	Constitution Day
Sep 21	Independence Day

Public holidays can affect opening hours, especially around New Year (a week-long series of holidays in early January) and Independence Day in September. April 24, Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, is a solemn day of commemoration, marked by large gatherings and processions in Yerevan. Most shops and restaurants open daily, including Sundays, and there is no strong tradition of a midday closure.

Getting around

- **By marshrutka:** Shared minivans connect Yerevan to almost every town and village. Fares are cheap and paid in cash on board; departures are frequent on popular routes but can be infrequent on rural ones.
- **By train:** A limited network connects Yerevan to [Vagharshapat](#), Gyumri, and [Lake Sevan](#), but it is slow and better suited to a scenic ride than a fast connection.
- **By taxi and ride-hailing apps:** GG Taxi and Yandex Go are widely available in Yerevan and inexpensive by international standards. Agree on a fare in advance for trips outside city limits, where meters are less common.
- **By rental car:** The most flexible way to reach monasteries and villages that marshrutkas do not serve well. Roads are mostly in good condition, though mountain routes can be narrow and winding.

Armenia is small enough that most major sights can be reached on a day trip from [Yerevan](#).

Driving

- **Alcohol limit:** Armenia has a zero-tolerance policy for drink driving — the legal limit is 0.0%. Random checks are common.
- **Winter driving:** Mountain roads in Gegharkunik, Syunik, and Aragatsotn provinces can ice over in winter; snow tires are strongly recommended between November and April.
- **Parking:** Metered street parking is common in central Yerevan, paid by SMS or app; elsewhere parking is informal and usually free.
- **Fuel:** Stations are staffed, and most accept cards as well as cash. Look for **Բենզին** (Benzin) for petrol and **Դիզել** (Dizel) for diesel on the pump.
- **Foreign vehicles:** Cars entering on foreign license plates pay a one-time environmental fee at the border.

📍 URBAN

60 km/h

📍 RURAL

90 km/h

📍 MOTORWAY

110 km/h

🛢 PETROL

**Բենզին (Benzin),
Regular / Premium**

🛢 DIESEL

Դիզել (Dizel)

🚗 Drive on the right

🚫 No motorway vignette needed

🚫 Armenia's roads are toll-free nationwide. A private toll section is planned on the new highway corridor between Ararat and the Iranian border in the south; check current signage before driving that route.

Food & drink

Armenians eat a hearty breakfast, often with eggs, cheese, herbs, and fresh lavash bread. Dinner is typically the main meal of the day, eaten later than in Western Europe, and meals are usually shared, with a spread of small dishes at the center of the table rather than individual plates. Grilled meat, khorovats, is Armenia's most common way to celebrate, whether cooked at home on weekends or ordered at a restaurant.

Beyond the grill, look for dolma (stuffed grape leaves), khash (a garlicky winter broth, usually eaten early in the morning), and gata, a sweet pastry served with coffee. Armenia is one of the world's oldest wine-producing regions, and the Vayots Dzor valley around Areni produces well-regarded reds from local grape varieties. Armenian brandy, distilled in Yerevan since the late 19th century, is the country's best-known export.

Coffee culture runs deep — Armenian coffee is brewed strong and unfiltered in a small copper pot, then served with the grounds left to settle at the bottom of the cup. Markets, bakeries, and small family-run restaurants are the best places to try everyday Armenian cooking, rather than restaurants aimed mainly at tourists.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Khash

A hearty broth made from simmered cow's feet, traditionally eaten as an early-morning winter dish with garlic and dried lavash.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Gata

A round, sweet pastry with a buttery, sugar-and-flour filling, often baked for holidays and family visits.

DRINKS

Armenian coffee

Strong, unfiltered coffee simmered in a small copper pot (jazzve) and served in small cups with the grounds left to settle.

Areni wine

Red wine made from the indigenous Areni grape in the Vayots Dzor region, one of the world's oldest winemaking areas.

Armenian brandy

Grape brandy aged in oak barrels, produced in Yerevan distilleries since the late 19th century and widely exported under the Ararat label.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Khorovats

Skewered, grilled meat (usually pork or lamb) marinated simply and cooked over open coals. Armenia's signature dish, often served at family gatherings.

Lavash · Լավաշ

Thin, soft flatbread baked in a clay oven, listed by UNESCO as an element of intangible cultural heritage. Served with almost every meal.

Dolma

Grape or cabbage leaves stuffed with minced meat, rice, and herbs, usually served with a garlic-yogurt sauce.

Armenia – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play



Scan to download
the app

Where to explore

[Yerevan](#) is Armenia's capital and largest city, and most visits start and end here. Its center is built around [Republic Square](#), framed by pink volcanic-tuff buildings, and the tiered [Cascade](#) art complex that climbs the hillside above. Nearby, [Freedom Square](#) anchors the city's theater and opera district. The city's museums include [Matenadaran](#), home to a vast collection of ancient illuminated manuscripts, and [History Museum of Armenia](#). On a hill above the city, [Mother Armenia](#) looks out over the skyline, and on its western edge, [Armenian Genocide Memorial](#) commemorates the victims of the 1915 genocide.

Just outside Yerevan, a cluster of ancient sites makes for an easy day out: the cliffside [Geghard Monastery](#), the Greco-Roman colonnades of [Garni Temple](#), and [Khor Virap](#), a monastery with sweeping views toward Mount Ararat.

[Vagharshapat](#), often called Echmiadzin, is the spiritual center of the Armenian Apostolic Church. [Echmiadzin Cathedral](#) is its mother cathedral, one of the oldest in the world, standing alongside the smaller churches of [Saint Hripsime Church](#) and [Saint Gayane Church](#). All three, together with the nearby ruins of [Zvartnots Cathedral](#), form a single UNESCO World Heritage Site.

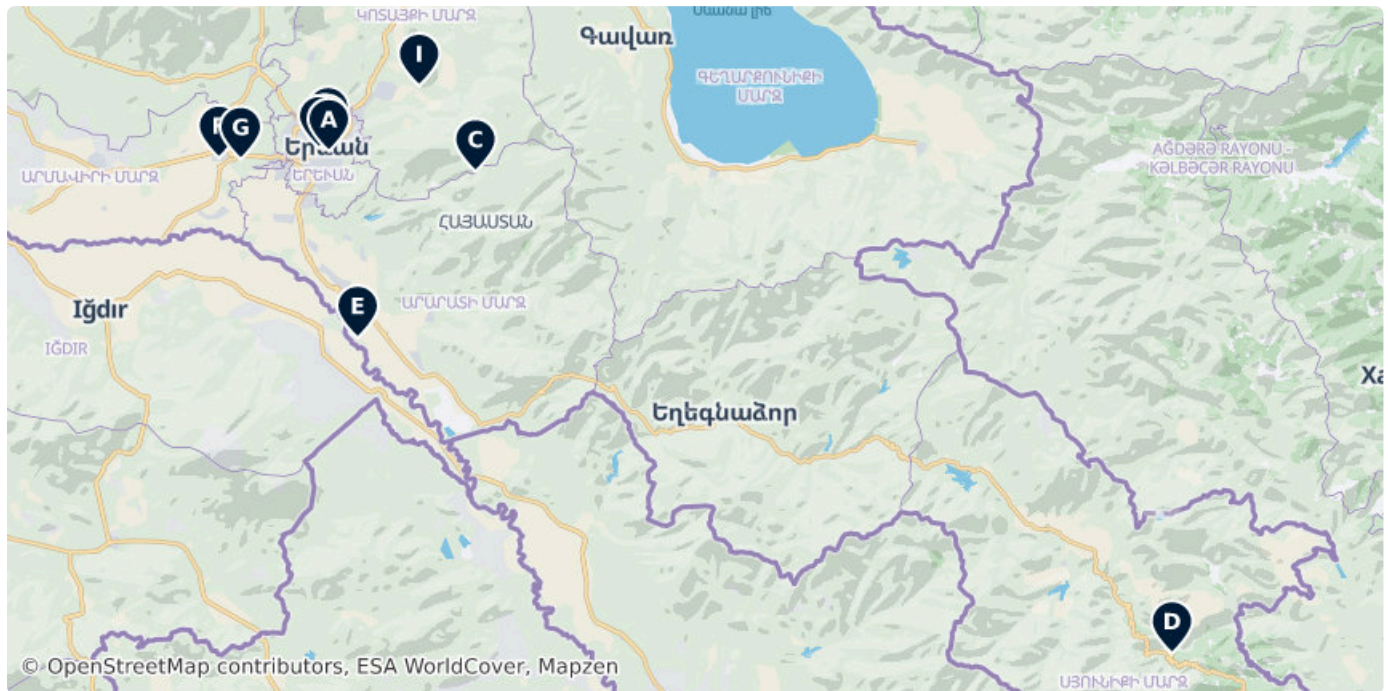
South of Yerevan, the wine region of Vayots Dzor centers on the town of Areni, known for the [Areni-1 Cave](#) and the red-cliff monastery of [Noravank Monastery](#). Further south, in Syunik province, [Goris](#) is the gateway to [Tatev Monastery](#), reached by the Wings of Tatev cable car, one of the longest aerial tramways in the world. Nearby are the still partly inhabited cave dwellings of [Khndzoresk Cave Dwellings](#) and the tiered [Shaki Waterfall](#).

In the north, the Debed Canyon in Lori province holds two UNESCO-listed monasteries, [Haghpat Monastery](#) and its twin, Sanahin. Further east, [Dilijan National Park](#) is a forested resort town known for hiking trails and the monasteries of [Goshavank](#) and [Haghartsin Monastery](#).

To the east, [Lake Sevan](#) is one of the highest large lakes in the world, ringed by beaches, guesthouses, and the hilltop [Sevanavank](#), with the shoreline [Hayravank Monastery](#) a short drive south. The spa town of Jermuk, further south again, is known for mineral springs and a dramatic waterfall.

Armenia's Crown Jewels

This collection spans Armenia's rich architectural heritage, from the 4th-century foundations of Echmiadzin Cathedral and the cave-carved chambers of Geghard Monastery to the 20th-century Soviet-neoclassical Republic Square. It highlights religious landmarks like the cliffside Tatev Monastery and Khor Virap, where Christianity was first adopted as a state religion. In Yerevan, the list includes the massive Cascades complex, the 18th-century Blue Mosque, and the Ararat Brandy Museum, showcasing the nation's diverse history and craftsmanship.



A Saint Grigor Lusavorich Church

The Saint Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral, also known as the Yerevan Cathedral is the largest cathedral of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Kor St, Yerevan, Armenia (40.17200, 44.51696)



B Cascades

The Cascade is located in Yerevan, Armenia. White travertine stone was used for building the complex since only this stone was available in...

Սարմենի փողոց, Երևան, Armenia (40.19084, 44.51551)

cmf.am, +37410-567262





C Geghard Monastery

Geghard is a medieval monastery in the Ararat province of Armenia, being partially carved out of the adjacent mountain, surrounded by...

Armenia (40.14050, 44.81845)



D Tatev Monastery

The Tatev Monastery is a 9th-century Armenian Apostolic Christian monastery located on a large basalt plateau near the village of Tatev in...

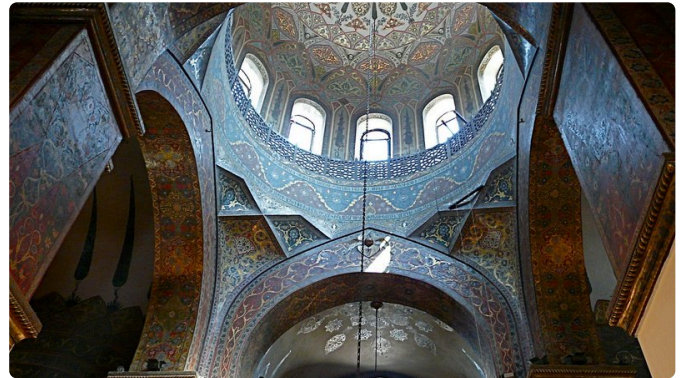
Armenia (39.37943, 46.25013)



E Khor Virap

Khor Virap is an Armenian monastery located in the Ararat Plain in Armenia, near the closed border with Turkey, about 8 kilometres south of...

Armenia (39.87836, 44.57615)



F Echmiadzin Cathedral

Etchmiadzin Cathedral is the mother church of the Armenian Apostolic Church, located in the city dually known as Etchmiadzin and...

Վաղարշապատ (40.16183, 44.29113)





G Zvartnots Cathedral

Zvartnots Cathedral is a medieval Armenian cathedral near Vagharshapat, Armenia.



Armenia (40.15969, 44.33586)

Mo-Sa

10:00-18:00

Su

10:00-16:00

+374-93-013132



H Republic Square

Republic Square is the central town square in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.



Հանրապետության հրապարակ, Երևան, Armenia
(40.17748, 44.51241)



I Church

A medieval Armenian church featuring traditional stone masonry and historical khachkars (cross-stones), situated in the village of Garni.



Armenia (40.27451, 44.70261)



J Blue Mosque

The Blue Mosque is an 18th-century Shia mosque in Yerevan, Armenia. It was commissioned by Hoseyn Ali Khan, the khan of the Iranian Erivan...



10 Mesrop Mashtots Ave, Yerevan 0015, Armenia
(40.17786, 44.50562)

Ararat Brandy Museum

Located within the Yerevan Brandy Company, this museum chronicles the history of Armenian brandy production since 1887.

Visitors can explore the aging cellars, see the 'Peace Barrel,' and sample various vintages.



(Unnamed Road), Երևան, Armenia (40.17676, 44.49717)

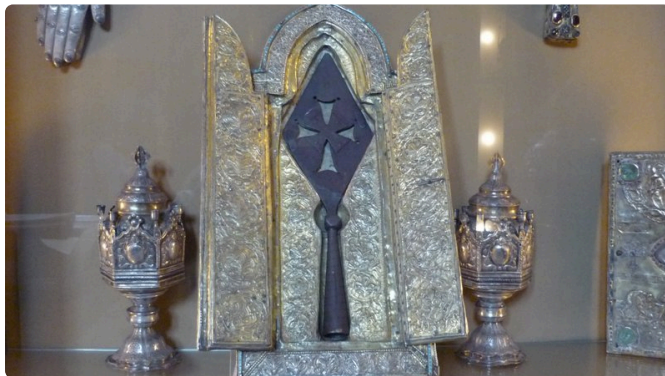
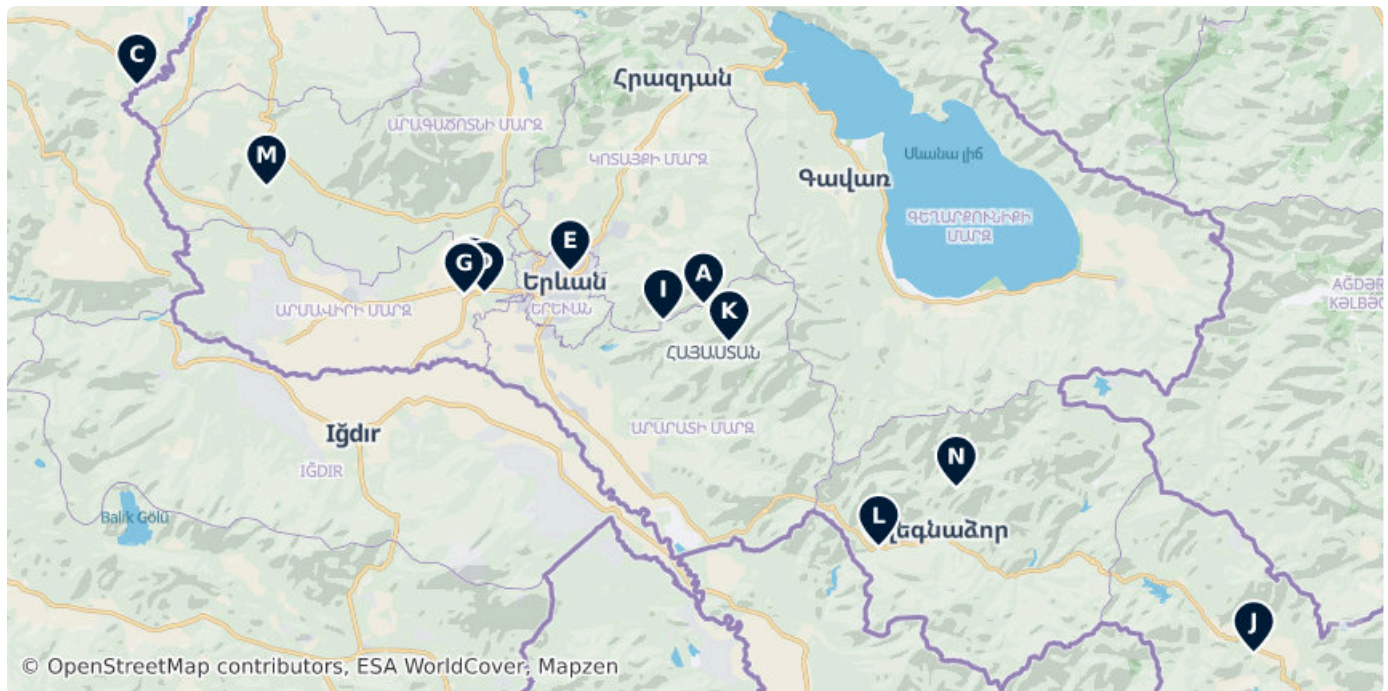
Mo-Su

09:00-20:00

araratbrandy.com

Armenia's Historic Treasures

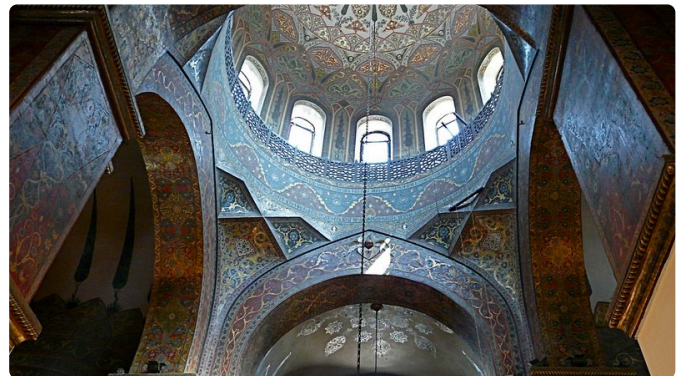
Armenia's landscape is defined by centuries of architectural evolution, from the prehistoric megaliths of Zorats Karer and the 6,000-year-old Areni-1 cave complex to the classical Hellenistic Temple of Garni. The collection features several UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the rock-cut Geghard Monastery and the 7th-century ruins of Zvartnots Cathedral. Medieval defensive architecture is represented by the massive basalt walls of Dashtadem Fortress and the high-altitude ruins of Kakavaberd, while Echmiadzin remains the spiritual center as the world's oldest state-built cathedral.



A Geghard Monastery

Geghard is a medieval monastery in the Ararat province of Armenia, being partially carved out of the adjacent mountain, surrounded by...

Armenia (40.14050, 44.81845)



B Echmiadzin Cathedral

Etchmiadzin Cathedral is the mother church of the Armenian Apostolic Church, located in the city dually known as Etchmiadzin and...

Վաղարշապատ (40.16183, 44.29113)





C Ani

Ani is a ruined medieval Armenian city now situated in Turkey's province of Kars, next to the closed border with Armenia.

36000, Turkey (40.50730, 43.57201)

virtualani.org



D Zvartnots Cathedral

Zvartnots Cathedral is a medieval Armenian cathedral near Vagharshapat, Armenia.

Armenia (40.15969, 44.33586)

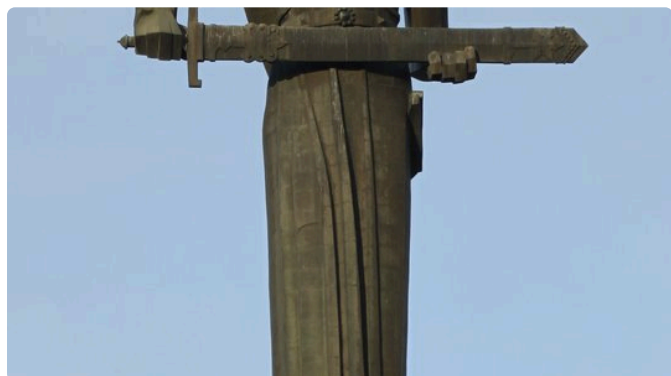
Mo-Sa

10:00-18:00

Su

10:00-16:00

+374-93-013132



E Mother Armenia

Mother Armenia is a female personification of Armenia. Her most public visual rendering is a monumental statue in Victory Park overlooking...

Saralanj Ave, Yerevan, Armenia (40.19515, 44.52467)

Tu-Fr

10:00-18:00

Sa-Su

10:00-15:00



F Saint Hripsime Church

Saint Hripsime Church is a seventh century Armenian Apostolic church in the city of Vagharshapat, Armenia.

Վաղարշապատ, Armenia (40.16700, 44.30947)





G Saint Gayane Church

The Saint Gayane Church is a 7th-century Armenian church in Vagharshapat, the religious center of Armenia.

Վաղարշապատ (40.15748, 44.29181)



H Shoghakat Church

The Church of Shoghakat was erected in 1694 by Prince Aghamal Sorotetsi during the reign of Catholicos Nahabed I in the city of...

Վաղարշապատ, Armenia (40.16807, 44.30477)



I Garni Fortress

The Garni Temple is a classical colonnaded structure in the village of Garni, in central Armenia, around 30 km east of Yerevan.

Armenia (40.11328, 44.72947)



J Zorats Karer

Carahunge, also known as Zorats Karer, Dik-Dik Karer, Tsits Karer and Karenish, is a prehistoric archaeological site near the town of...

Armenia (39.55178, 46.02885)





L Areni-1 cave

The Areni-1 cave complex is a multicomponent site, and late Chalcolithic/Early Bronze Age ritual site and settlement, located near the...

(Unnamed Road), Armenia (39.73141, 45.20358)

arenicave.am



K Kakavaberd (Kaqavaberd)

Kakavaberd or Kaqavaberd (Armenian: Կաքավաբերդ, Eastern Armenian Kak'avaberd; also known as Geghi Berd, Keghi Berd or Kegh is a fortress on...

Armenia (40.07680, 44.87456)



M Dashtadem Fortress

A substantial fortress complex featuring a 10th-century keep built of orange tuff, surrounded by later 19th-century defensive walls and semi-circular bastions. The site includes a small medieval church and remains of a reservoir, serving as a key defensive structure on the historical route to Ani.

Armenia (40.33843, 43.85694)



N Proshaberd

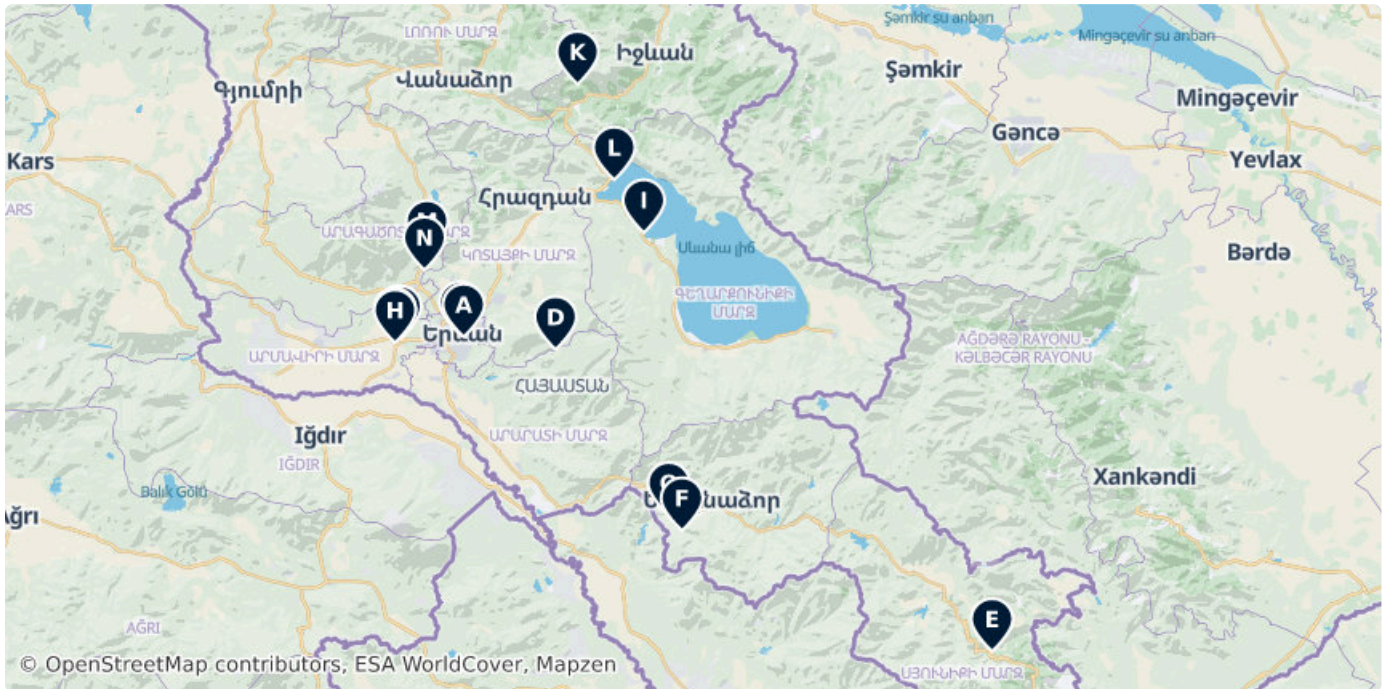
Proshaberd is a fortress built in the 13th century by Prince Prosh Khaghbakian.

Armenia (39.83171, 45.37428)



Armenia's Spiritual Heritage

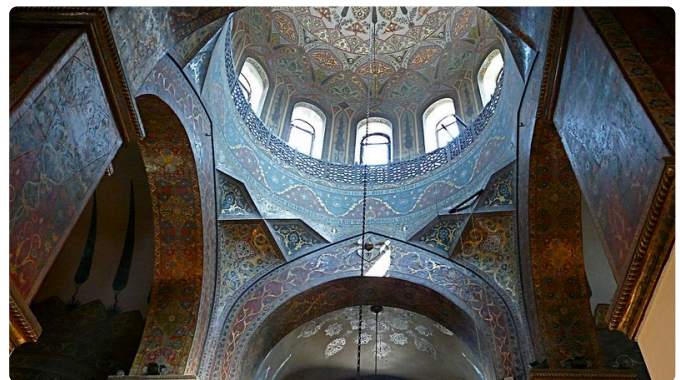
Armenia's religious landscape spans over 1,700 years of history, beginning with its status as the first nation to adopt Christianity. This selection highlights foundational sites like the 4th-century Echmiadzin Cathedral and the cave-carved Geghard Monastery. It features 7th-century Hripsime-style architecture in Vagharshapat, the remote 9th-century Tatev Monastery, and the 13th-century red stone structures of Noravank. The list also includes the 18th-century Blue Mosque in Yerevan, illustrating the country's diverse spiritual and architectural evolution.



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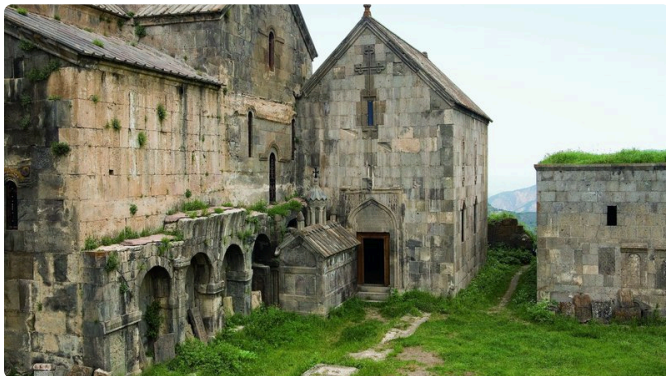
10 Mesrop Mashtots Ave, Yerevan 0015, Armenia
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Armenia (40.14050, 44.81845)



E Tatev Monastery

The Tatev Monastery is a 9th-century Armenian Apostolic Christian monastery located on a large basalt plateau near the village of Tatev in...

Armenia (39.37943, 46.25013)



F Noravanq

Noravank is a 13th-century Armenian monastery, located 122 km from Yerevan in a narrow gorge made by the Amaghu River, near the town of...

Armenia (39.68482, 45.23304)





G Saint Hripsime Church

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Վաղարշապատ, Armenia (40.16700, 44.30947)



H Saint Gayane Church

The Saint Gayane Church is a 7th-century Armenian church in Vagharshapat, the religious center of Armenia.



Վաղարշապատ (40.15748, 44.29181)



I Hayravank Monastery

Hayravank is a 9th to 12th century Armenian monastery located just northeast of the village of Hayravank along the southwest shores of Lake...



Armenia (40.43269, 45.10789)



J Shoghakat Church

The Church of Shoghakat was erected in 1694 by Prince Aghamal Sorotetsi during the reign of Catholicos Nahabed I in the city of...



Վաղարշապատ, Armenia (40.16807, 44.30477)



L Sevanavank

Founded in 874 on a peninsula in Lake Sevan, this monastic complex features two churches, Surb Arakelots and Surb Astvatsatsin. Both are constructed from black volcanic tuff and represent 9th-century Armenian architecture.

Armenia (40.56377, 45.01084)



K Haghartsin Monastery

Haghartsin is a 13th-century monastery located near the town of Dilijan in the Tavush Province of Armenia.

Armenia (40.80186, 44.89067)



M Saghmossavank

The Saghmossavank is a 13th-century Armenian monastic complex located in the village of Saghmossavan in the Aragatsotn Province of Armenia.

Armenia (40.38066, 44.39672)



N Hovhannavank

Hovhannavank, also Yovhannavank' is a medieval monastery located in the village of Ohanavan in the Aragatsotn Province of Armenia.

Armenia (40.33954, 44.38867)



armeniapedia.org/wiki/Hovhannavank_Monastery



Areni Surb Astvatsatsin

Surb Astvatsatsin of Areni is a single-nave two-aisled domed church completed in the year 1321.



Armenia (39.72397, 45.18956)

DATA SOURCES

Map data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen
Places	OpenStreetMap, Wikidata, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official website

IMAGE CREDITS

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- Cascades — "The first level. Cascade. Yerevan, Armenia." by Marcin Konsek, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Geghard Monastery — "The lance currently in Echmiadzin, Armenia. It was discovered during the First..." by Photo by Emanuele Iannone, Public domain
- Tatev Monastery — "Tatevatsi's Gravestone" by uncredited, CC BY-SA 3.0
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