|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Art of Travelling – Travels in Armenia & Georgia**  **booking@art-travel.am** |

**UNEXPLORED ARMENIA FOR REPEAT TRAVELLERS**

Guaranteed Group tour with arrival every Saturday, 100% confirmation!

01.05.2024-30.09.2024

Duration: 5 nights / 6 days

**SATURDAY**

Arrival at Zvartnots International Airport. Transfer to the hotel.

Overnight in Yerevan.

**SUNDAY**

Breakfast at the hotel

***Within this group tour, you will see some of Armenia's most breathtaking sights. The first stop is envisioned in the oldest village of Areni, where a 6000-year-old winery was found. This is where wine tasting and a tour of the Hin Areni winery will be organized. After that, the route includes a flight on the world’s longest reversible cable car "Wings of Tatev" and a visit to the unique monastery complex of Tatev. No less amazing will be a stop in the cave town of Khndzoresk, where the bravest will have a chance to walk on a swinging bridge in search of adrenaline.***

*Departure: 08:30. Duration: 14-15 hours*

*The tour is conducted alternately in English and Russian languages.*

The village of Areni has been the cradle of Armenian winemaking for thousands of years. The **Hin Areni winery** masterfully showcases historical and local varieties of Armenian grapes.

**Optional lunch** in a local traditional restaurant at your own expense.

Arriving in the south of Armenia, we will visit a unique architectural monument - **Tatev Monastery**. It was founded in the 9th century on the site of an ancient sanctuary. Due to its favorable strategic location in an inaccessible place and frequent wars, powerful fortifications were created there with numerous secret vaults and passages, connecting the monastery with the outside world.

We will get to the monastery by a cable car called **"Wings of Tatev**". The ropeway is almost 6 km long and stretches along the deep gorge of the Vorotan River and over hills covered with dense forests.

**Hndzoresk** is located on the slope of two hills, where there was no flat terrain to build houses and therefore people lived in caves. The unique attraction of Hndzoresk is a swing bridge, which is 160 meters long and 63 meters high and offers a beautiful view. It can be crossed by 700 people at a time.

Overnight in Yerevan.

**MONDAY**

Breakfast at the hotel

***Within this group tour you will see the unique beauty of northern Armenia. First you will marvel at the 10th century Haghpat Monastery, where the famous folk ashug (poet and singer) Sayat Nova lived and worked at the end of the 18th century. Next on the itinerary is the marvelous cave and fortress complex of Zarni-Parni where you familiarize yourself with rare exhibits in the historical museum. Then you will see the fortress of Akhtala, surrounded on three sides by a deep gorge. You will visit Aramyants Castle, a pearl of Swiss architecture in Armenia. Last on the schedule is a visit to Sanahin Monastery. Both monasteries - Haghpat and Sanahin - are included in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List.***

*Departure: 09:00. Duration: 13-14 hours*

*The tour is conducted alternately in English and Russian languages.*

**Akhpat Monastery** was founded in the 10th century. The famous folk poet and singer Sayat Nova lived in this monastery at the end of the 18th century. The site is included in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List.

**Zarni Parni** is a cave and fortress complex near the village of Haghpat. Currently, the area has been transformed into a historical museum, which displays a number of rare ancient agricultural implements and household items. There is a tavern and winery near the cave, where you can taste local drinks and savor Armenian cuisine.

**Optional lunch** in a local traditional restaurant at your own expense.

**Akhtala Fortress** is located on a high plateau surrounded on three sides by a deep gorge. On the territory of the fortress there is Akhtala monastery complex with famous frescoes.

One of the Armenian architectural gems, **Aramyants Castle**, was built at this place by a local businessman for his daughter suffered from tuberculosis, because Akhtala has the best climate in the whole Caucasus.

Not far from Akhpat is the Sanahin Monastery, built in the second half of the 10th century. The site is included in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List.

Overnight in Yerevan.

**TUESDAY**

Breakfast at the hotel

***During this tour you will visit Gyumri, the second largest city of Armenia, one of the main cultural centers of the country. Visiting the Museum of Urban Life, you will get acquainted with the daily life, culture and history of Gyumri. You will have a stop near the Black Fortress, one of the most famous monuments of Gyumri. Walking along the streets of the city, you will see many ancient buildings and feel the spirit of 19th century architecture. The final stop is the Arichavank Monastery Complex, located on the western slope of Mount Aragats.***

*Departure: 09:00. Duration: 10-11 hours*

*The tour is conducted alternately in English and Russian languages.*

**Gyumri,** one of the most colorful cities of Armenia, is located in the northwestern part of Armenia. The national traditions here are rooted in the distant past, the uniqueness of spirit is manifested in almost everything. Houses attract attention by the subtlety of architectural work, the variety of tuff colors, masterfully executed patterns of wooden balconies.

The **Museum of National Architecture and Urban Life** of Gyumri gives an idea of the life, culture and history of the city.

Built in 1834, the **Black Fortress** is one of the famous monuments of Gyumri. It is a complex of military and architectural constructions.

**Optional lunch** in a local traditional restaurant at your own expense.

**Arichavank Monastery** is located on the western slope of Mount Aragats. Of particular interest is the small chapel located near the monastery complex. As a result of an earthquake, a part of the rock was detached from the rocky promontory together with the chapel, which has survived to this day in a tilted state.

Overnight in Yerevan.

**WEDNESDAY**

Breakfast at the hotel

***During this group tour you will visit Hayravank, which offers a marvelous view of the "blue pearl" of Armenia - Lake Sevan. The next stop will be at the collection of cross-stones in Noratus, which are considered the highlights of Armenian architecture. Then you will pass through Selim Pass, which connects the northern part of Armenia with the southern part. You will visit the Arpi winery where you will taste the unique Armenian wine. Then you will go to the resort town of Jermuk, which is famous for its mineral waters characterized by various healing properties. Also in Jermuk you will see a waterfall with the original name "Mermaid's Hair".***

*Departure: 09:00 Duration: 13-14 hours*

*The tour is conducted alternately in English and Russian languages.*

**Lake Sevan**, the "blue pearl" of Armenia, is the largest lake in the Caucasus and one of the largest mountain freshwater lakes in the world. Its area is 1400 square kilometers and it is located at an altitude of 1900 meters above sea level. You will also see the **Ayravank Church**, built on a high rock on the shore of Lake Sevan.

The next stop is **Noratus cemetery**. The art of cross-stones “khachkar” is the most vivid manifestation of Armenian medieval culture. Noratus is considered to be a symphony of cross-stones and an open-air museum, where hundreds of unique exhibits of very fine workmanship of the 13th-14th centuries are collected.

**The Selim Pass** has been an important part of the Silk Road for centuries. Numerous camel caravans carried expensive goods to the west passing through the mountain pass. Travelers and animals needed rest, and that is why a caravanserai was built here in the 14th century.

**The Arpi winery** was built in 1998. The winery features different varieties of wine and of course has a tasting room and distillery.

**Optional lunch** in a local traditional restaurant at your own expense.

At the end of our tour we will visit the famous **Jermuk resort**, famous for its unique springs, both fresh and mineral ones.

**THURSDAY**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Zvartnots International Airport.

***Program is subject to change due to organizational reasons without reducing the scope of services provided!***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The price includes** | **The price doesn’t include** |
| - Transfers airport – hotel / hotel - airport;  - BB Accommodation for 5 nights in Yerevan in standard DBL rooms;  - Professional tour guide: ENG + RUS alternately;  - Air-conditioned vehicles;  - **Bottled water and buns**;  - Entrance tickets according to the program;  - **WiFi in vehicles on tour;**  - Vehicle and passenger insurance;  - Wine tasting. | o Airline tickets;  o Health Insurance;  o Drinks and gratuities;  o Lunches (optional lunches on tour approx. 3 500 AMD – 4 500 AMD. Only cash payment)  o Dinners;  o Any services not mentioned in the section “The price includes” |