

# Armenia & Georgia Short Break Tour

**Key information** 

Duration: 7 days / 6 nights Best season: Year round Tour type: Small group / individual (starting from 2 persons)

# What's included:

Airport transfers, transfer from border Armenia-Georgia border, accommodation in hotels 6 nights (double rooms), breakfast, all transfers in air-conditioned vehicles, English speaking guide's service for all days, all admission fees, wine tasting, 1 bottle of water per day (0.5lt.)

What's not included: Flights, visa fee, medical insurance

# Itinerary in brief

- Day 1 Arrival Free day
- Day 2 Yerevan City Tour Echmiadzin
- Day 3 Garni Geghard Sevan Dilijan
- Day 4 Haghartsin Goshavank Armenia-Georgia border Tbilisi
- Day 5 Tbilisi City Tour Mtskheta
- Day 6 Sighnaghi Bodbe Khareba
- Day 7 Departure



## **Detailed itinerary**



#### Day 1

After arrival at the airport, you will be transferred to the hotel in Yerevan and checked in. You will have free time for leisure and for discovering Yerevan yourself.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan

## Day 2

Your exciting trip will start from the city tour in the ancient capital of Armenia – Yerevan. Yerevan Birth Certificate is held in the history museum. It is a cuneiform inscription of Urartian King Argishti, which lets scientists tell the exact time of foundation and prove that Yerevan was built in 782 B.C. During the city tour, you will visit "Matenadaran", which houses over 17,000 ancient and medieval manuscripts, making it the significant bearer of one of the largest collections in the world. After "Matenadaran", the tour will continue to the Holy See of Echmiadzin, the religious center of all Armenians around the world and the residence of Catholicos, Supreme Patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church is in Echmiadzin. Here the first official Christian church - Echmiadzin Cathedral was founded in the first half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century, later it was reconstructed and stands today with the whole charm. You'll see the ruins of Zvartnots temple (7th century, UNESCO World Heritage Site), that was a miracle of its time.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan Meals: Breakfast Duration: 7-8 hours Length: 130 km

#### Day 3

After breakfast at the hotel, you will have a drive to the Geghard Cave Monastery (13<sup>th</sup> century) located deep at the bottom of the canyon and included into UNESCO World Heritage Site. This unique monastery is carved of the rocks and the surrounding cliffs compose the part of it. After our excursion around the monastery, our way continues to Garni village with its Garni temple – the only surviving example of Hellenistic architecture in the region. Garni's complex has a royal bath which exhibits a fascinating hypocaust along with a well-preserved original mosaic tiling. However, the tour doesn't end here. An hour drive by car – and you will appear at the beach of an amazing azure Lake Sevan – the pearl of Armenian nature. The stunning hilltop view of the azure lake framed by the surrounding mountains makes you feel inspired and speechless. Here you will go up to the hill with its Sevanavank monastery and enjoy an amazing view of the lake. The day ends with a drive to the resort town of Dilijan famous by its healing fresh air filled with pine aromas. *Overnight: Hotel in Dilijan* 

Meals: Breakfast Duration: 7-8 hours Length: 180 km

#### Day 4

On the fourth day, after an excursion to the medieval monasteries of Haghartsin and Goshavank the tour will continue to the Armenian-Georgian border. After discovering wonderful culture, nature and architecture of Armenia, a fascinating journey around Georgia is waiting for you. First, you will be transferred to Armenia-Georgia border, from where after passing the customs "Sadakhlo" you'll head to Tbilisi – the hospitable capital of Georgia. After check in at the hotel, you will have free time.

Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi Meals: Breakfast Duration: 6-7 hours





#### Length: 210 km

#### Day 5

After breakfast, you will have the city tour and visit Holy Trinity Cathedral of Tbilisi - the main Georgian Orthodox Church. Next place to visit is historic district of Metekhi, where the Assumption Church is located. During the day you will also have a chance to enjoy the beauty of the Bridge of Peace, designed by a well-known Italian architect. Then the cable car will take you to Narikala fortress – the symbol of Tbilisi located on a hill. A few kilometers North from Tbilisi there is a small and colorful town Mtskheta which will be your next destination. This town was the first capital of Georgia from  $3^{rd}$  century BC to the  $5^{th}$  century AD. The excursion will start with the visit to the Cathedral of the 11th century – Svetitskhoveli. The next stop - Jvari Temple, located at the top of the hill, offers a fascinating view of the confluence of two rivers Kura and Aragvi.

Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi Meals: Breakfast Duration: 5-6 hours Length: 60 km

#### Day 6

Immediately after the breakfast, you will head to the picturesque little town of Sighnaghi sometimes called the "city of love". Here you will have a great opportunity to get acquainted with the traditions and the unique wines of the country! First you will climb the medieval fortress, defensive double walls of which surround the town of Sighnaghi impressing by their majestic beauty. You will admire the breathtaking beautiful panoramic views of the Alazani Valley, visit Bodbe monastery, where the relics of the preacher St. Nino are buried. Those who wish can go down by the pilgrimage route to the St. Source (650 steps) and get inimitable water. Then, continuing your trip you will appear in Kvareli and will visit the famous winery "Khareba". Here there is a wonderful opportunity to have a tour around the factory, taste local wines. The master class on baking Georgian bread Shoti and making of Churchkhela will complete and make unforgettable the tour.

Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi

Meals: Breakfast Duration: 7-8 hours Length: 150 km

Day 7

Transfer to the airport, departure.





#### **Booking terms and conditions**

Once we received your application, confirmed all tour details with you, we will send a deposit invoice. After the deposit of 50-100 euro per person (depending on the tour price) is received, we will start your hotel reservation and other service booking and will send your Tour Voucher with all the trip details.

#### Payment Terms

After you have booked the tour, it is necessary to make a non-refundable deposit of 50-100 euros, which will provide our coordinators with the possibility to start organizing a trip (hotel reservation, food, transportation, etc.). Final payment could be made after your arrival on the spot. We reserve the right to cancel your booking and apply the relevant cancellation charges (detailed below) if we do not receive all payments at the due time.

#### Cancellation of the tour

If you or a member of your group wants to cancel the tour, please, inform our company as soon as possible in writing form. Please, note that the prepayment (50-100 euros) is non-refundable, however, you can use it throughout the year and book another tour. In this case, our company will have to charge an extra 100 euros for re-booking the hotel.

#### **<u>Rights and obligations</u>**

Tours provided by our company are planned for many months before its inception and are not the subject of change or cancellation. Under the obligation of forced circumstances (weather, holidays) we can make some changes in the itinerary, however, all that relates to services and attractions will remain unchanged.

Please note, that our tours require a minimum number of participants -2 persons. We reserve the right to cancel the trip, if any tour will not have the minimum number of participants. We will inform you about the cancellation of the tour no later than 30 days before the start and will do the full refund of the amount paid, including the prepayment.

We also request immediately and promptly report all complaints and any claims during the tour. If possible, all problems will be solved. If the tourist does not report any complaint, the compensation will not be implemented.

Please, also note that the company AraraTour is not liable for services not included in the tour price. Our responsibility is limited only to the extent provided by our tour.

Force majeure or any other event which is beyond our control and which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part frees both parties from liability or obligation. In case of Force majeure, we don't issue any refund.

#### **Insolvency or bankruptcy insurance**

Tour operator Arara guarantees the refund of clients' money for unfulfilled services even in the case of company's own insolvency or bankruptcy.

