

ARMENIA: COLOURS & FLAVOURS

15 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2026

FROM
£2,870
PER PERSON

Tour Leader: Chris Caldicott


The Ultimate
TRAVEL COMPANY

A LAND OF RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE & MAJESTIC SCENERY



The Republic of Armenia, the first nation to adopt Christianity as its religion in the 4th century, has a rich cultural heritage as witnessed in the museums of its capital, Yerevan, and in the remarkable early churches, monasteries, and cave dwellings set in the majestic mountain scenery of the south Caucasus.

We begin in Yerevan with a city tour including the State Museum of Armenian History, with collections documenting ancient history through to modern times, and the Armenia Genocide Museum and Memorial. We also visit the historic churches at Etchmiadzin, including the ruined church of Zvartnots and Etchmiadzin Cathedral, and the Sergei Parajanov Museum with its eclectic works by the artist. Leaving the city, we travel south to the monastery of Khor Virap, with its splendid views of Mount Ararat and the evocative Noravank Monastery complex. We continue south to the picturesque town of Goris and we visit the impressive walled monastery at Tatev and the home and museum of Armenian prose writer Axel Bakounts. Crossing the Selim Pass, we visit Orbelian's caravanserai, before continuing to Lake Sevan, one of the largest mountain lakes in the world, and onwards to Dilijan, surrounded by the forests of the Dilijan National Park. Here we visit the remote Goshavank Monastery and the Makaravank and Haghartsin Monasteries before our journey back to Yerevan. The tour ends with the remarkable rock-carved churches at Geghard, the Hellenistic Temple at Garni and the magnificent Matenadaran, a depository of over 12,000 ancient manuscripts.



Lake Sevan



Makaravank Monastery



Noratus Cemetery

9 - DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 15 SEPTEMBER 2026

15 September London / Paris / Yerevan

Suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) Air France AF 1681 departing London Heathrow at 11.30 hrs arriving Paris at 13.50 hrs connecting with AF 1060 departing at 18.40 hrs arriving Yerevan at 01.20 hrs. Transfer to the 5-star Armenia Marriott Hotel, situated next to Council Square, where three nights are spent.

16 September Yerevan

Morning tour of the capital including a visit to the National History Museum in Republic Square. See the Government and National Assembly Buildings and the Opera House in Opera Square. From here see the Cascade, a vast flight of steps and flower beds leading up to a monument commemorating the 50th anniversary of Soviet Armenia. Continue to the 23-metre high statue of Mother of Armenia that watches over the city from Victory Park.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Visit the Genocide Memorial and Museum which was opened in 1995 and is dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

Visit and dinner at the Megeryan Carpet Factory.

17 September Etchmiadzin & Yerevan

Morning drive to the city of Etchmiadzin. Here see the UNESCO World Heritage sites of the ruins of the Palace Church at Zvartnots and Etchmiadzin Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Armenian Apostolic Church and considered the oldest cathedral in the world. Also visit the fine 7th-century churches of St. Hripsime and St. Gayane and the Treasury Museum of Etchmiadzin.

Cooking demonstration and lunch at the Cross of Armenian Unity NGO restaurant. Return to Yerevan and visit museum of the artist and film director, Sergei Paradjanov, known for *The Colour of Pomegranates*. His controversial lifestyle and behaviour led Soviet authorities to repeatedly persecute and imprison him and suppress his films. Dinner at a local restaurant.

18 September Yerevan / Goris

Leave for the historic Khor Virap Monastery, with its splendid views of Mount Ararat, before

continuing South to visit the evocative 13th-century Noravank Monastery, set against a rugged cliff face. Visit the Areni Caves where, in 2010, the world's oldest known winery (4th millennium BC) was discovered.

Lunch and wine tasting in the Vayots-Dzor region, known for its wine making. Continue to the mysterious standing stones of Karahunj or Carahunge, near the city of Goris. Check into the boutique Red Roof Hotel in Goris where two nights are spent. Dinner at the hotel.

19 September Goris & Tatev

Morning tour of Goris considered Armenia's most beautiful town, with its fine stone houses, arched windows and balconies along its tree lined streets. Take the cable car to the impressive walled monastery of Tatev, which stands in splendid isolation above the Vorotan Gorge.

Lunch at a local restaurant at Tatev. Return to Goris and visit the 19th-century home and museum of the Armenian prose writer, Axel Bakounts (1899–1937). Take tea at the museum. Dinner at a local restaurant.



Dilijan



Cascade, Yerevan

20 September Selim Pass / Lake Sevan / Dilijan

Depart for the Selim Pass and visit the Caravanserai which was built along the Vardenyats Mountain Pass in 1332, by prince Chesar Orbelian to accommodate weary travellers and their animals as they crossed from, or into, the Vayots Dzor Mountains. Located at the southern side of the pass at a height of 2410 metres above sea level, Orbelian's Caravanserai is the best-preserved caravanserai in the entire country. Continue to Noraduz to see the field of khatchkars (or carved memorial stone crosses). Cheese tasting at the Miqayelyan Cheese Factory. Lunch at a local restaurant. Drive on to Lake Sevan, one of the largest mountain lakes in the world and the inspiration for poets, artists and composers. Visit the 9th-12th century monastery of Hayravank on the shores of the lake. Drive on to the village of Dilijan, situated in Dilijan National Park. The forested and reclusive city is home to numerous Armenian artists, composers, and filmmakers and features some traditional Armenian architecture. Check into the boutique Dilijazz Hotel where one night is spent. Dinner at the hotel.

21 September Dilijan / Yerevan

In Dilijan, walk along Sharambeyan Street in the Old Town with its artisans' workshops and craft shops and visit the Esayan Museum with its reconstruction of typical 19th century homes. Visit Makaravank Monastery on the slopes of Mount Paitata, built of dark-pink, red and greenish stone, and dating from the 10th-13th centuries. Continue to the remote 12th-century monastery of Goshavank, founded by Mkhitar Gosh, a medieval Armenian ruler who was both a scholar and a politician. Lunch at a local restaurant in Dilijan. Visit the 11th-13th century Haghartsin Monastery, hidden in a verdant valley with three churches. Return to Yerevan and check in at the Marriott Hotel where two nights are spent. Dinner at the hotel.

22 September Yerevan, Geghard & Garni

Leave for the early monastery of Geghard, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its rock-hewn chapels and monks' cells. Take the winding road through the Aransk Gorge to the restored Hellenistic temple of Garni. Lunch at a local house, with a

demonstration of the typical bread (lavash) baking. Return to Yerevan and visit the Matenadaran Library, the pride of Armenian culture with one of the world's largest collections of ancient manuscripts. Dinner at a traditional Armenian restaurant.

23 September Yerevan / Paris / London

Transfer to the airport. Suggested flight (not included) Air France AF 1061 departing Yerevan at 08.40 hrs arriving Paris at 11.55 hrs connecting to AF 1780 departing at 13.20 arriving London Heathrow at 13.45 hrs.



Temple of Garni



TOUR PRICES PER PERSON

Tour Price	£2,870
Single Supplement	£595

Please note we have not included the cost of the flights in the tour price. Please contact us for prices should you wish to book them through us.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- Breakfast daily; 7 lunches; 7 dinners
- All entrance fees, visits, excursions and transportation as per the itinerary
- Gratuities in restaurants for included meals; gratuities to guides/s; gratuities to driver/s; portage
- Local English-speaking guide/s
- The services of your tour leader throughout

PRICE EXCLUDES

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 18/07/25.



Noravank Monastery



Chris Caldicott

Since travelling to some of the most remote parts of the world as Photographer-in-Residence to the Royal Geographical Society, Chris Caldicott has continued his globetrotting lifestyle as a freelance photographer, writer and lecturer specialising in food and travel. He has had several books published about food, travel and the spice trade and visited 118 countries on assignments to capture evocative images and write about memorable experiences for publications such as *Vanity Fair*, *Condé Nast Traveller*, *The Sunday Times*, *Harpers Bazaar*, *Tatler*, *House and Garden* and *The Telegraph*.

YOUR TOUR
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