



Armenia

📍 374 / POP 3,019,000

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Anteb (p143)
- ➔ Ankyun (p144)
- ➔ Cherkezi Dzor (p158)
- ➔ Zanazan Restaurant (p173)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Azoyan Guest House (p141)
- ➔ Avan Dzoraget Hotel (p163)
- ➔ Gohar's Guest House (p177)
- ➔ Maghay B&B (p161)
- ➔ Marriott Tsaghkadzor (p174)
- ➔ Tufenkian Historic Yerevan Hotel (p141)

Why Go?

Few nations have histories as ancient, complex and laced with tragedy as Armenia (Հայաստան). And even fewer have a culture that is as rich and resilient. This is a destination where you will be intrigued by history, awed by monuments, amazed by the landscape and charmed by down-to-earth locals. It's not an easy place to explore – roads are rough, transport is often hard to navigate and those who don't speak Armenian or Russian may find communication difficult – but travelling here is as rewarding as it is revelatory.

The simply extraordinary collection of medieval monasteries scattered across the country is the number-one attraction, closely followed by a dramatically beautiful landscape that is perfectly suited to hiking and other outdoor activities. And then there's the unexpected delight of Yerevan – one of Europe's most exuberant and endearing cities. Put together, they offer an enticing and hugely enjoyable travel experience.

When to Go

- ➔ Most of Armenia has a dry, high-altitude climate, though there are some verdant rainy pockets in the Lori, Tavush and Syunik regions. These receive the most rain in early spring.
- ➔ Spring temperatures are mild and the countryside is covered in wildflowers, making it a perfect time to go hiking.
- ➔ Autumn has long, warm days and stable weather conditions.
- ➔ Summer in Yerevan can be 40°C with little or no breeze for days at a time; weather in the north is cooler.
- ➔ Conditions in winter can be bleak, with temperatures falling to -10°C or even lower in many areas. Roads are often closed due to snow and ice.



Armenia Highlights

- 1 Enjoying time in the welcoming cafes, wine bars and restaurants of **Yerevan** (p128).
- 2 Marvelling at the ancient rock-hewn churches at **Geghard Monastery** (p149).
- 3 Hiking between spectacularly sited monasteries in the **Kasagh Gorge** (p154).
- 4 Visiting medieval fresco-covered churches of the dramatic **Debed Canyon** (p162).
- 5 Exploring somnolent villages, ruins and an old Jewish cemetery in **Yeghegis Valley** (p178).
- 6 Watching the sun slowly set over the dramatic cliffs surrounding **Noravank** (p176).
- 7 Enjoying a high-altitude picnic in front of a 14th-century caravanserai on scenic **Selim Pass** (p180).
- 8 Soaring up to fortified monastery at **Tatev** (p184) on the world's longest cable car.