

VISIT My Armenia

A LAND! A HISTORY! AN ETERNITY...



lebtour.com

April 21 till April 26, 2012

The only country remaining from 3,000 year old maps of Anatolia. Bordered by Turkey to the west, Georgia to the north, Iran to the south and Azerbaijan to the east. A former Soviet republic, lying in the Caucasus region, straddling Asia and Europe, Armenia has an ancient and rich culture. Armenia is very easy to experience, thanks to very hospitable people.

Armenia will offer you very mountainous sceneries, with breathtaking views.

On LebTour's trip to Armenia, you will frequently be reminded that Armenia was the world's first officially Christian country.

Watching over revered Mt Ararat, Armenia spans rocky highlands while also boasting lush forests and serene, turquoise Lake Sevan. There are remote regions and monasteries to explore, but highlights are as likely to be Yerevan's buzzing arts scene, the Mediterranean mind-set and café culture, or a spontaneous shared meal - and tittle - with locals.

While the country's ancient monasteries, candle-lit churches and high-walled forts are obvious highlights; your fondest memories of Armenia will most likely lie with the locals themselves. You'll easily find friends among these gracious, humble and easygoing people, even without a common language. Ties are best forged around a dinner table, where endless rounds of toasting accompany a meal bursting with fresh vegetables and grilled meats.

Although Armenians carry a lot of psychological baggage from a traumatic 20th century, you'll hardly notice it. The rapidly modernizing capital, the boutique tourism industry and the warm welcome you'll receive everywhere seems to belie the country's reputation for tragedy. Rather than letting past woes weigh it down, Armenia has built its memorials, dusted itself off and moved on. Politicians have set their sights on EU membership, while businessmen are enjoying a booming economy dubbed the 'Caucasian Tiger'.

Since 2001, when Armenia celebrated the 1,700th anniversary of the nation's conversion to Christianity, the growth in the number of tourists has grown by about 25% every year. Straddling Europe and Asia in the lesser Caucasus Mountains, an ex-Soviet state, with a culture over 3,000 years old and examples of ancient architecture and art all over the countryside, this beautiful country offers something exotic for many tourists. As part of this trip, we aimed to schedule it during the Parade of April 24th, to participate giving tribute to the million and something victims of the Armenian Genocide.

The LGBT actualities:

In December 2002 Armenia adopted a new Criminal Code and abolished the anti-gay article 116 that dated back to 1936. Since then, homosexuality is no longer illegal. Once achieved, a "wealthy gay scene" started to emerge in the capital Yerevan.

To know more about our tour, you may contact us via E-mail on info@lebtour.com or by phone on: +961.3.004572

Itinerary

Day 1



- Arrival in **Yerevan** (the capital and largest city of Armenia and one of the world's oldest continuously-inhabited cities. Situated along the Hrazdan River, Yerevan is the administrative, cultural, and industrial center of the country. It has been the capital since 1918, the thirteenth in the history of Armenia.)
- Transfer to the hotel
- Walking tour in the evening - (Cascade • Opera House • North Avenue • The Republic Square • Singing fountains)

Day 2



- **Yerevan city tour: Tsitsernakaberd Memorial** (is a memorial dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide; it is located on a hill overlooking Yerevan, Armenia. Every year on April 24, hundreds of thousands of Armenians gather here to remember the victims of the 1915 Armenian Genocide that took place in the Ottoman Empire carried out by the Turkish government.)
- Armenia history museum: One of the largest repositories of manuscripts in the world **Matenadaran** (It holds one of the world's richest depositories of medieval manuscripts and books which span a broad range of subjects, including history, philosophy, medicine, literature, art history and cosmography in Armenian and many other languages.)
- **Yerevan Brandy Factory** (founded in 1887, is the leading enterprise of Armenia for the production of alcoholic beverages. Its main brand name is Ararat. Currently the company boasts a large following, particularly in Russia, as well as in Ukraine and Belarus. The Russian market accounts for about 85% of exports. YBC is owned and operated by the French giant Pernod Ricard.)

Day 3

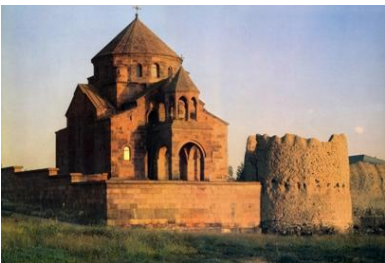


- **Garni pagan temple** (is a temple complex located in the Kotayk Province of Armenia, situated approximately 32 km southeast from Yerevan.)
- **"Lavash"** baking ritual in a local house in Garni (is a soft, thin flatbread popular in several countries of the northern parts of the Middle-East and the southern parts of the Caucasus.)
- **Geghard monastic complex** (UNESCO's World Heritage)
- **Lake Sevan** (the largest lake in Armenia and one of the largest high-altitude lakes in the world; situated in the central part of the Republic of Armenia, inside the Gegharkunik Province, at the altitude of 1,900m above sea level.)



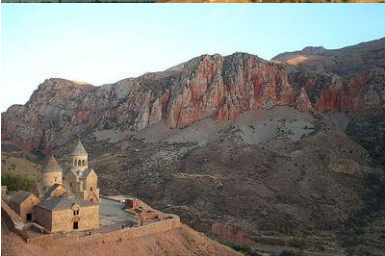
- **Sevanavank** monastery (is a monastic complex located on a peninsula at the northwestern shore of Lake Sevan in the Gegharkunik Province of Armenia, not far from the town of Sevan. Initially the monastery was built at the southern shore of a small island. After the artificial draining of Lake Sevan, which started in the Stalin era, the water level fell about 20 metres, and the island transformed into a peninsula. At the southern shore of this newly created peninsula, a guesthouse of the Armenian Writers' Union was built. The eastern shore is occupied by the Armenian president's summer residence, while the monastery's still active seminary moved to newly constructed buildings at the northern shore of the peninsula.)

Day 4



- **Etchmiadzin** Cathedral (fourth-largest city in Armenia and the spiritual centre of the Armenians, as it is the seat of the Catholicos of All Armenians, the head of the Holy Armenian Apostolic Church. Located about 18 km west of Yerevan.)
- Temples **Hripsimeh** and **Gayane**
 - The church dedicated to Rhipsime may still be seen in Etchmiadzin; the current structure was consecrated in 618, and contains her tomb in the catacombs beneath the building.
 - The Church of Saint Gayane is a 7th century Armenian church of Etchmiadzin
- Archeological monument **Zvartnots** (UNESCO's World Heritage) (are the ruins of a seventh century centrally-planned aisled tetraconch type Armenian cathedral built by order of the Catholicos Nerses the Builder from 641-653. It is located at the edge of the city of Etchmiadzin.)
- The site of **Metsamor** castle (Populated from the 5th millennium BC until the 18th century AD)

Day 5



- **Khor Virap** (deep dungeon) Monastery is an Armenian Apostolic Church monastery located in the Ararat plain in Armenia, near the border with Turkey. Khor Virap's notability as a monastery and pilgrimage site is attributed to the fact that Grigor Lusavorich, who later became Saint Gregory the Illuminator, was initially imprisoned here for 13 years by King Tiridates III of Armenia. Saint Gregory subsequently became the king's religious mentor, and they led the proselytizing activity in the country. It is probably the most visited pilgrimage site in Armenia.
- **Noravank** (is a 13th century Armenian Apostolic Church monastery, located 122 km from Yerevan in a narrow gorge made by the Amaghu River, nearby the city of Yeghegnadzor, Armenia. The gorge is known for its tall, sheer, brick-red cliffs, directly across from the monastery.)
- Winery in **Areni**

Day 6



- **Lori province** (it is in the north of the country, bordering Georgia, It is home to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Haghpat and Sanahin and the well-preserved Akhtala monastery, where Armenians, Georgians, and Greeks make an annual pilgrimage on September 20-21)
- **Haghpat Monastery**, also known as **Haghpatavank** (UNESCO's World Heritage)
- **Akhtala** (is a 10th-century fortified Armenian Apostolic Church monastery located in the town of Akhtala in the marz of Lori, 185 kilometers north of Yerevan. The monastery is currently inactive. The fortress played a major role in protecting the north-western regions of Armenia (Gugark) and is among the most well preserved of all in modern Armenia. The main church at the compound is famous for its highly artistic frescoes, which cover the inside walls, the partitions, and the bearings of the building. The modern name of Akhtala was first recorded in a royal decree of 1438. The etymology of the name is believed to be of Turkic origin, meaning white glade.)
- **Sanahin Monastery** (UNESCO's World Heritage)
Sanahin Monastery is an Armenian monastery founded in the 10th century. The name Sanahin literally translates from Armenian as "this one is older than that one", presumably representing a claim to having an older monastery than the neighboring Haghpat Monastery. The two villages and their monasteries are similar in many ways, and lie in plain view of each other on a dissected plateau formation, separated by a deep "crack" formed by a small river flowing into the Debed river.

Day 7



- Transfer from the hotel to the airport – Departure



My Armenia trip

May 5th till May 11th, 2012

1350\$	1550\$
per person in a double room	per person in a single room

- 6 nights hotel accommodation in a 4 stars central located hotel.
- Breakfasts served by the hotel
- Transfer (airport - hotel - airport)
- Tours including transportation & excursions
- Guiding services and assistance during all the stay
- Airport pick up

Package fee exclude

- Airline ticket to Armenia – assistance is possible
- Meals & Beverages, except the breakfast provided by the hotel.
- Room upgrading fee
- Visas & exist taxes
- Extra nights if required
- Expenses of personal nature
- Insurance if required
- Tips for guides & drivers

All reservations should be done by sending us the reservation form filled along with the deposit needed.

Registration process

The Reservation form should be sent to us the soonest, followed by the participation fee.

The following amount should be wired either via Western union / money Gram or a bank transfer 30 days from day of booking.

Needful details

For a Bank Account transfer

039 001 208 0040398 001
IBAN LB20 0053 0039 0012 0800 40398001
Swift Code: CLIBLBXX

For a western union or Money Gram transfer

FULL NAME: BERTHO MAKSO
PHONE NUMBER: +961.3.004572
NATIONAL ID NUMBER: 000032284720
ADDRESS: BEIRUT - LEBANON

Participation Information
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Full Name

Current Title

Email	Phone Number
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Address	City
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Country of Stay	Date of Birth
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Notes

Transfer swift code (bank or Western union swift code)

Flight details