

JEEP TOUR ARMENIA

Character:

Have you ever dreamed of Paris - Dakar rally? Well, we have an offer for you - touring on roads far from regular tourist trails, trying everything from thrilling off-road rides to navigating in mountainous terrain, enjoying the excitement of a real expedition created by professional rally-masters, organizers of Silk Road Rally.

Duration:

7 days / 7 nights

Accommodation:

Tourist hotels

Meals:

7 breakfasts, 1 dinner, 1 lunch

Mode of travel:

4WD vehicles

Tour support:

AdvenTour tour leader /driver

Included:

Accommodation for 7 nights

Meals as specified in the itinerary

AdvenTour tour leader/driver

All activities as per itinerary with all entry fees

All transfers in 4WD vehicles

Travel permits in protected areas

Rally Tour Armenia information kit

Excluded:

Optional activities

Itinerary

Day 1

Hunter's Road, Southern Armenia

In the morning meet your tour leader and other group participants for coffee and a briefing on the jeep trip ahead. Head to south enjoying the fabulous views of biblical Mount Ararat. We soon get off the roads and travel by 4WD along the Hunter's Road, a great trail dressed in wildflowers. Breathe the mountain air and relax with nature, continue the jeep adventure further to Mozrov Cave. Here we offer an optional tour of the caverns, an experience our visitors find truly unique. After winding our way through this spectacular land we arrive at Gnishik village surrounded by towering red rocks. After taking a few moments to freshen up it will be time to watch your hostess Anna prepare local culinary delights in a traditional wood oven in the ground.

Overnight: Hotel in Vayk

Meal plan: Breakfast, dinner

Day 2

Pristine Lake and Rock Art

Wake up to the call of hundreds of birds and enjoy your hot coffee. Head further south and jeep to Sisian. Follow the mountain tracks onto one of the unique wonders of the world, ancient rock paintings of Camel Mount. We steer our way up winding through this ancient and awe-inspiring mountain scenery, leave the rocks and alpine flowers behind but our efforts are well rewarded. Pack your imagination and be one of the privileged few to revisit the past and see the amazing rock art from bygone era. After rest in this beautiful place 4WD trip downhill to the finish of the full day of 100% off-road adventure. Back to Sisian for great food and rest.

Overnight: Hotel in Sisian

Meal plan: Breakfast

Day 3

Devil's Bridge

After leisurely breakfast we hit the track and drive on the highway up to Shinuhayr village. On to Tatev Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This mountain trail offers panoramic views you have seen in old movies with a taste of rugged 4WD adventure through a narrow ravine so deep that the sun hardly reaches the bottom. Within the walls of the gorge birds find water and shelter from the heat of the plains. Stop at the Devil's Bridge to stretch your feet, walk a few steps down, fill your bottle with crystal clear water coming from mountains and, if time allows, soak in the healing mineral bath. As soon as you see the Monastery you will understand what has drawn people to this sacred place for hundreds of years. Continue to Goris for overnight.

Overnight: Hotel in Goris

Meal plan: Breakfast

Day 4

Scenic Drive, Southern Armenia

Breakfast and proceed to explore the lush valley of Her-Her river. Our first stop will be at Shatin observation point where we have a chance to see bezoar goats on the opposite side of the gorge. The day offers a real off-the-beaten-path experience as we drive to Fortress of King Smbat, one of the best-preserved medieval citadels in Armenia. Explore enigmatic Tsakhat Kar, a highly scenic spot and a subject of local legends. Continue across high altitude plains and remote villages followed by hard climbs, the thrill of visiting this land of rugged beauty is ample reward. We are in the agricultural heart of Armenia and do not miss the chance to sample some of the fantastic produce: private wine touring in maran (cellars) of a leading winery in Aghavnadzor, outdoor lunch in tender family atmosphere proceeding with local cheese tasting. Back to our hotel in Yeghegnadzor.

Overnight: Hotel in Yeghegnadzor

Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch

Day 5

Selim Caravanserai, Silk Road

Early breakfast and head out to Selim. Drive through striking landscapes of jagged mountains and gorges, rivers and muddy roads. The road gradually climbs up over 2,410m in elevation following the historic Silk Route past Selim Caravanserai. This is one of the best places to see

what fabled Silk Route looked like centuries ago. Descend to 2,000 m to catch the first glimpse of Lake Sevan, the Pearl of Armenia. If you seek a jeep path less taken and would like a deeper-textured experience then jeep through striking landscapes to lofty mountain peaks of Vardenis ridge, reach beautiful mountain lakes, time to walk around and enjoy the scenery (weather permitting). Transfer to hotel for rest and overnight. A sunset walk for splendid views of Lake and surrounding mountains is a must before dinner.

Overnight: Hotel at Lake Sevan

Meal plan: Breakfast

Day 6

Driving at the Garlic Pass

Leave the splendor of Lake Sevan and head north-west into the wilderness. Get to the real backcountry, drive through small villages of Navour and Itsaqar nestled in the mountains with barely 300 inhabitants. Our passing encounters with friendly locals living in these remote settlements may leave us with some of our strongest memories and the best photos of rural Armenia. Now it is time to hit the Garlic Pass at 1850 meters, unparalleled views as your jeep cruises through forested foothills of Tavush. Then get above it all as the car climbs over awesome mountain trails, marvel at the natural splendor around you, meander down the wonderful old road leading to Ijevan. Time permitting drive on to tranquil Gosh Lake lost in forests, clear blue or green water (depending on the weather), fantastic reflections of the surrounding trees and the blue sky above.

Overnight: Hotel in Dilijan

Meal plan: Breakfast

Day 7

Yerevan

Transfer to Yerevan, one of the oldest cities in the world and deserves a tour. Start with the Republic Square with its magnificent buildings enhanced by the "singing fountains", continue to Erebouni Fortress, the birthplace of Yerevan. Explore the impressive ruins and drive back to the Railway Station to see the beautiful monument of David of Sasun, national hero. On to Mashtots Avenue, past Blue Mosque and huge fruit market. Afternoon free to relax and have some souvenir shopping at Vernisage.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan

Meal plan: Breakfast

Tour Notes

1. Special notes

The information in these Special Notes covers the average range of conditions likely to be found on this trip. In remote destinations unexpected conditions can prevail at any time, and all adventurous holidays can therefore be subject to unexpected changes; in order to enjoy them you should be prepared to be flexible where necessary.

2. Travel health and insurance

No vaccination is required for traveling in the Caucasus. The region's climate is very pleasant, with no health risks. Water is very clean and safe. However, travelers usually prefer bottled spring and mineral water, which can be found in shops and supermarkets.

There are registered pharmacies in all cities and towns with all basic medications. Travelers with special needs are advised to take a supply of those medications that they are likely to require. Medical facilities are numerous with many qualified doctors practicing in all specialties. Doctors and hospitals often expect cash payment for their services. Travelers are advised to consult their medical insurance company prior to traveling to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and covers emergency expenses such as medical evacuation. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that it cover medical expenses including emergency repatriation and personal liability. We also strongly recommend that the policy cover loss of luggage and personal effects.

3. Driving Conditions

Road conditions are mostly good. In the mountains we use off-road trails developed for this tour and ensuring maximum off-road fun. The environments we travel through are fragile. It is our responsibility as visitors to minimise the impact of our presence.

Conversion Formulas

We have provided some useful conversion formulas below:

To convert Celsius to Fahrenheit

→ multiply by 1.8 and add 32

To convert meters to feet

→ multiply by 3.28

To convert kilometres to miles

→ multiply by 0.62

To convert kilograms to pounds

→ multiply by 2.21

To convert litres to US gallons

→ multiply by 0.26

4. Money

You will need to allow enough money for meals as well as optional activities. An average meal in a restaurant should cost between EUR 8-10. Tipping is customized and not compulsory. You should be aware that Caucasus is still a cash-only economy and credit cards are not accepted in the majority of shops and restaurants. There are several ATM machines in major cities where you can obtain cash.

5. Communication during the tour

If you need to be contacted while traveling we recommend that you set up an email address that can be accessed on the road. Email cafes are common and are the preferred way for our leaders and travelers to stay in touch.

If someone wishes to contact you in an emergency while you are on an AdvenTour trip we recommend that they contact our operator by phone + 374 10 48 22 71 or E-mail: adventour@netsys.am.

6. Accommodation

We choose hotels/guesthouses that combine comfort and great service with unique ambiance and appreciation of the natural beauty of a region. The emphasis is on location and practicality.

Our tours are based on 3 star properties. In capital cities and other places where higher-class accommodation is available you can upgrade if you wish. Your tour leader will help arrange this and the extra cost will be paid by you. In areas where hotels are not available, particularly in small towns in the regions, the group will stay at a local guesthouse (often with shared facilities). Some campsites we stay in are equipped with showers, toilets, electricity and a common eating area. Where no campsites are available we go wild camping (no facilities). These are limited to once or twice a tour and are in areas where you can enjoy the scenery. All other nights will be in campsites/hotels as described above.

Single Supplement

Should you want more privacy during your trip, you can upgrade by the requesting your own room, often at a little extra cost.

Pre / Post-Tour Accommodation

If you require additional accommodation either before or after the trip, we can book this for you. Please contact AdvenTour for current prices.

7. Transport and private transfers

The mode of transport we use is chosen to suit the environmental aspects and local infrastructure. During tours we use comfortable, air-conditioned cars, minibuses and buses as well as some local transport that is well-maintained and supplied with a first-aid kit. In fact, we often use more than one type of transport per trip. And just in case you are wondering – we also travel by foot.

Airport transfers are not included in the cost of the trip. Please, let us know at the time of booking if you would like us to arrange a private transfer for you.

8. Staff and support

While on AdvenTour trips, you will be accompanied by a tour leader/driver. The tour leader is in charge of general organization of your trip making sure that you have a most enjoyable time. He/she has broad general knowledge of the places visited, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. The tour leader is able to provide suggestions on what to do and see and can recommend great local eating venues. Local guides are an important part of AdvenTour team, they are trained by us and support our groups in sites and locations where their special knowledge of the trails, particular activities or communities will add to the enjoyment of the tour.

9. Meals

The tour cost includes bed and breakfast in the hotels and guesthouses. Meals, when included, will feature local cuisine. For other meals, you are left to choose what and where to eat, though your tour leader will be on hand to suggest venues and arrange where necessary. This can be one of the great joys of this trip as the food in Armenia is superb. Vegetarians should have no problems on this tour.

10. Laundry

Facilities are offered by most hotels for a charge.

11. Visas

Citizens of EU, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and a number of other countries can obtain Armenian visa upon arrival at the airport or land border. All other nationals are advised to consult Armenian Embassy in their country of

residence. Georgian visa is not required for EU, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand citizens. All other national are advised to consult the Georgian Embassy in their country of residence. Turkish visa is obtained upon arrival at the airport or land border. Iranian visa support is provided by AdvenTour through local partners in Iran. Visa regulations can and do change without notice. Please check the current regulations in good time to obtain a visa if one is required.

12. Travel luggage

Because of limited luggage space on transfer vehicles, we limit each passenger to ONE main suitcase or frameless backpack (the size not more than 75cm x 45cm x 25cm, the weight no more than 20 kg) and one day bag. The daypack is practical for keeping general items (e.g. camera, books, wallets etc.) at hand when your main pack is out of reach. Please note many hotels in the regions do not have porters and you will need to carry your own luggage.

Travel tip 1: On some tours, if you wish, it is possible to leave surplus clothes and other personal equipment in hotels where you will return after your circular trip. Please bring a small bag to pack excess items in and leave the bag at the hotel. Mark your luggage with your name and arrival date. Please ask your tour leader to advise where this may be possible / advisable.

Travel tip 2: You might be tempted to buy a few souvenirs here and there, so leave a little room for those extra purchases!

13. Safety

We always recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while traveling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, cash and other valuable items. All the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which can be used to store your valuables.

14. Responsible tourism

Tourism can be a real help to local communities providing income, positive cultural exchanges and the financial incentive to protect the natural environment. Our trips are designed to use family-based guesthouses in the regions, buy local food, hire local guides, drivers and rent trucks to ensure that as much money as possible is retained within the local economies.

15. Feedback

After your travel, we would like to hear from you. Within two weeks after your departure we will send you a feedback form to complete.

Information in this document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However

it is subject to change and does not form part of the contract between the client and AdvenTour.