

## **RALLY 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:***

Superior hotels and guesthouses

***Meals:***

7 breakfasts, 2 dinners

***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

All transfers in 4WD vehicles

Travel permits in protected areas

*Rally Tour Armenia* information kit

***Excluded:***

Optional activities

## ***Itinerary***

### **Day 1**

### **Singing Fountains**

In the morning meet AdvenTour representative and other group participants for coffee and a briefing on the jeep trip ahead. Proceed to explore Yerevan, new and old. We start our cultural touring by exploration of 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 to reach Matenadaran, the repository of ancient manuscripts. Afternoon is dedicated to exploration of Garni Temple, the only standing Hellenic-style temple in Caucasus and Geghard, a unique monastic complex carved in rocks with caves housing the monks. In the evening we share a warm welcome dinner in ethnic restaurant.

***Overnight:*** Hotel in Yerevan

***Meal plan:*** Breakfast, dinner

### **Day 2**

### **Hunters Road**

Early breakfast and head to south enjoying the fabulous views of biblical Mount Ararat. We soon get off the sealed 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 Bear's 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:*** Homestay in Gnishik

***Meal plan:*** Breakfast, dinner

### **Day 3**

### **Pristine Lake and Rock Art**

Wake up to the call of hundreds of birds and enjoy your hot breakfast. 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 4**

### **Devils 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. Back to Sisian for overnight.

***Overnight:*** Hotel in Sisian

***Meal plan:*** Breakfast

### **Day 5**

### **Selim Caravanserai**

Early breakfast and head out to Her-Her. If you seek a jeep path less taken and would like a deeper-textured experience then jeep through striking landscapes of jagged mountains and gorges, rivers and muddy roads. Your 4WD map will help you orientate. The off-road trail gradually climbs up over 2,410m in elevation following the historic Silk Route past Selim

Caravanseray. 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. 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**

### **Honey Pass**

Leave the splendor of Lake Sevan and head further north into the outback. A morning stop at Vanadzor for a fresh coffee. Now it is time to hit the famous Honey Pass for a day full of adventures - unparalleled views as your jeep cruises through thick forests with dramatic gray rock cliffs soaring above you. Then get above it all as the car climbs over awesome mountain trails to high altitude desert and a small lake on the top. Meet friendly shepherds living in this remote settlement and enjoy fresh, cool yogurt. Travel on towards Tsakhadsor resort, the famous training ground for high altitude Olympic Games. Evening back to Yerevan, transfer to hotel.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Yerevan*

**Meal plan:** *Breakfast*

### **Day 7**

### **Yerevan**

Free day to explore Yerevan at your own pace.

**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 Armenia. The country's climate is very pleasant, with no health risks. Water in Armenia 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. Also please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or if you will be reimbursed later for expenses incurred. 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 EUR8-10. Tipping is customized and not compulsory. You should be aware that Armenia 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 Yerevan and other cities where you can obtain cash. 10 000 Armenian Drams (approximately EUR 26) is charged as a departure tax on exiting Armenia by air.

*Please note:* we do not charge sightseeing fees in advance allowing you to choose whether or not you visit sites, depending upon your interests.

### **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 91 42 67 45 or E-mail: [adventour@netsys.am](mailto:adventour@netsys.am).

### **6. Accommodation**

We choose facilities that combine high level of comfort and service with unique design and appreciation of the natural beauty of a region. The emphasis is on location, practicality and reasonable degree of comfort.

#### *Hotel/Guesthouse*

Accommodation is generally in same sex twin rooms. If you are sharing with another single no supplement is necessary. Our costs are generally based on 3 star properties. If you want higher-class accommodation you can request an upgrade at the time of booking.

#### *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 provided you notify us at the time of booking. Please contact AdvenTour for current prices. Payment for this must be made to AdvenTour. Please note that AMD 5,000 booking fee is added to the cost.

### **7. Transport and private transfers**

The mode of transport we use is chosen to suit the environmental aspects and local infrastructure. During these tours we use comfortable 4WD vehicles (Toyota Land Cruiser, Nissan Patrol, Lada Niva) as well as some local transport that is well-maintained and supplied with a first-aid kit.

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**

You will have a professional driver/tour leader with off-road driving experience. He is in charge of general organization of your trip making sure that you have a most enjoyable time. He has general knowledge of the places visited.

### **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 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 all hotels for a charge.

### **11. Visas**

To obtain a tourist visa for traveling to Armenia, you should apply to the Embassy of the

Republic of Armenia in your country or online at

<http://www.armeniaforeignministry.com/eVisa/>.

Another option is to obtain your visa upon arrival at Zvartnots International Airport. 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. What to take**

Pack small and light. From early May to late October the weather is generally warm and pleasant with some hot days in July - August. Sometimes it can get cool in the mountains so we recommend taking a couple of warm sweaters. You should also have a day pack to carry your personal accessories during the day.

### **13. Safety**

Armenia is a very safe country. Anyway 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.

	<b>AdvenTour Booking Form</b>	
--	-------------------------------	--

Title / First Name / Surname	Nationality	Passport No.	Issue Date	Exp. Date	Date of Birth
Lead contact name					
Group members					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

Address	Emergency Contact Details
Lead contact	Name Relationship Tel. No. (home) E-mail
Tel. No. (home):	
Tel. No. (work):	
E-mail:	

<b>Travel Insurance:</b>	On all of our tours it is compulsory that you have travel insurance. Please fill in your policy details below.				
	Policy Issuer		Policy Number		Emergency Phone No:

TOUR CODE	TOUR NAME	Start Date
<b>Room Type</b>	Double ----	Twin -----
		Single -----
		Triple -----
<b>Extra nights/transfers/rentals, etc.</b> (if required)		
<b>Special Requests</b> (diet, food allergies, etc.)		
<b>Inbound Flight No.</b>	<b>Arrival Date</b>	<b>Arrival Time</b>
<b>Outbound Flight No.</b>	<b>Departure Date</b>	<b>Departure Time</b>

<b>Tour Cost per person</b>	€
<b>Single supplement</b> (if applicable)	+ €
<b>Extra nights/transfers/rentals, etc.</b> (if required)	+ €
<b>Total Cost per person</b>	€
<b>Number in Group</b>	X
<b>Total Group cost</b>	= €

How did you hear about us? (internet, magazine, friend etc) – please specify	
Do you wish to receive periodic news and product information via your e-mail? Yes                      No	
<b>Declaration:</b> I have read, understood, and accept the booking conditions provided on AdvenTour or associated website, on behalf of all members of my party, by whom I am authorised to make this agreement. I enclose the deposit (as detailed above), which is non-refundable in the event of my cancellation.	
----- Signature	----- Date

**Deposit:** €200 per person. Balance due now, payment by Visa, Master or Amex (please add 0.5% for Amex). Full amount is payable if your departure is in less than 45 days.

**Final Balance:** Balance due 45 days prior to departure. Final balance is payable by bank transfer. We will send you the invoice and our bank details.