

Armenia&Karabah

Expedition (auto/trekking/climbing), 9 days

Season: April - November

Program:

Day 1. Arrival at Zvartnots International Airport. Transfer to Areni village through Ararat valley. Continuing the route, we reach Khor Virap Monastery (4-17 cc) which is considered to be one of the most popular places in Armenia. This is where Saint Gregory the Illuminator was kept in a deep hole for 13 years for propagandizing Christianity in the then pagan Armenia. A spectacular view to Biblical Ararat is opened from Yerevan-Artashat motorway. Dinner and overnight in the B&B Areni village.



Khor Virap Monastery and Mt. Ararat

Day 2. After breakfast rock-climbing program in Noravank Gorge. Traditional Armenian lunch in nature. Sightseeing walk to the ancient Noravank monastery. Noravank Monastery (13th century AD). This is a unique construction, surrounded by red cliffs creating the idea of being alone with The Lord. Dinner and overnight in the B&B Areni village.

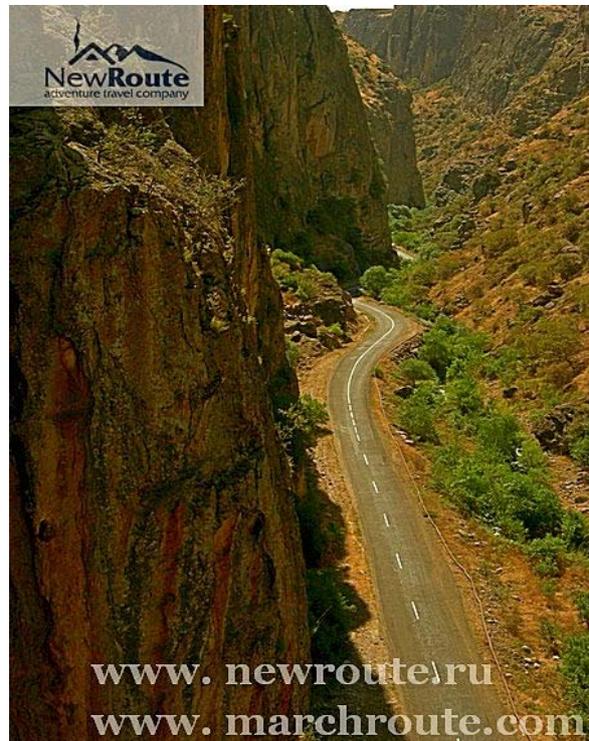


Red rocks and Noravank Monastery

Day 3. After breakfast rock-climbing program in Djokhki Dzor Gorge. Excursion in Areni wine factory. Wine testing form Armenian Areni grapes in “Getnatun” winery. Dinner and overnight in the B&B Areni

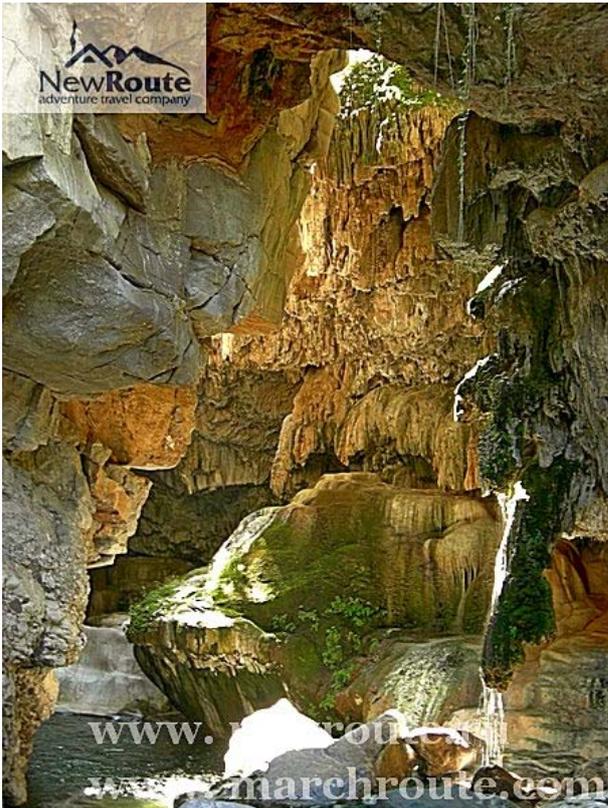


Areni wine factory

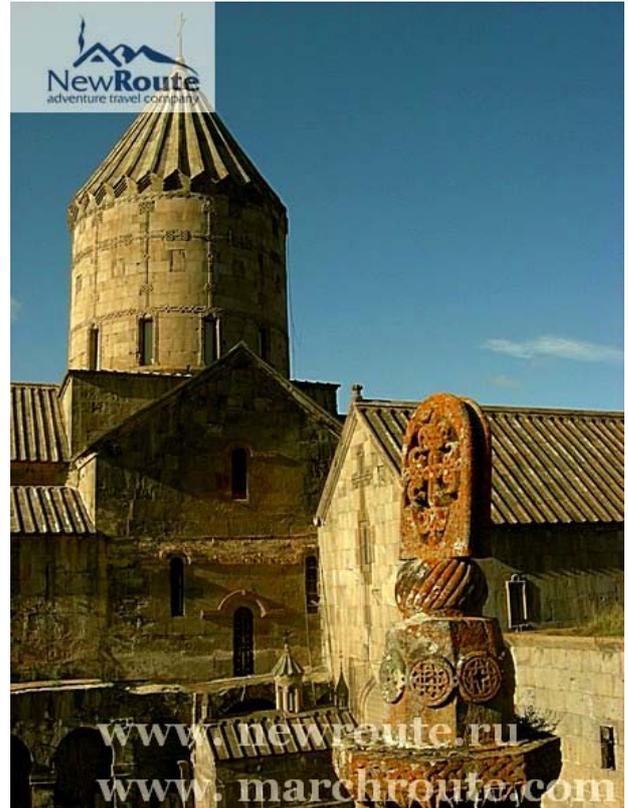


Noravank Gorge

Day 4. Breakfast. Transfer to Djermuk mineral-spring factory. By the way visit the Karahunj, Armenia's Stonehenge, an ancient observatory that has caused sensation in astronomical circles. Our next visit is Tatev Monastery Complex (IX th). The monastery was founded in the ninth century The strategically right location made the monastic complex almost inaccessible and well protected. Monuments of Tatev enchant its visitors with outstanding works of art and architecture. The gorge also includes Devil's Bridge, opposite the parking area from this sign. Actually a gigantic boulder that wedged into its current position after falling from a cliff, the 'bridge' obscures the river's course for 50 meters, giving it its name. For centuries it was used as a natural bridge to reach Tatev. The mineral springs erupting from cliff rocks at the site color the canyon and form stalactites under the bridge and a small pool of warm spring water attracts soakers for much of the year. Overnight in Goris Hotel.



Devil's Bridge



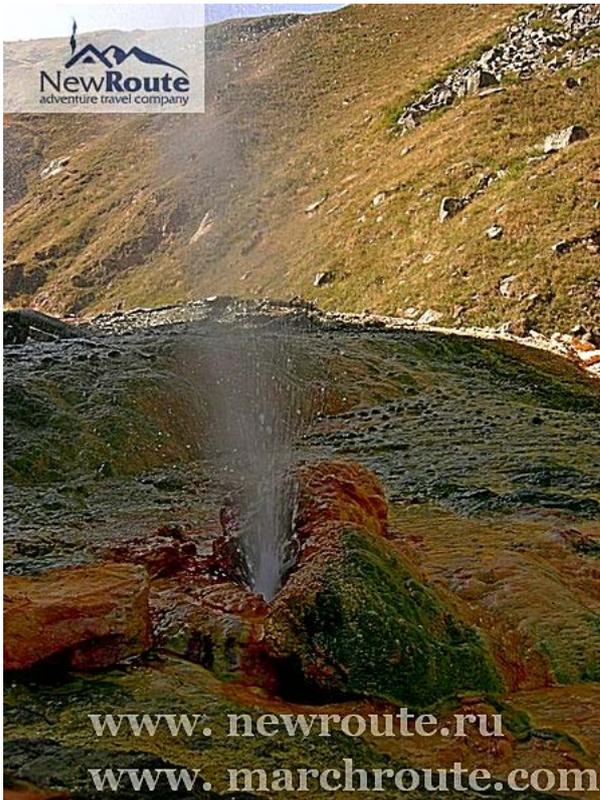
Tatev Monastery Complex

Day 5. Breakfast. Visit the Khndzoresk Cave Village (Old Khndzoresk) comprised by over 400 hundreds of cave dwellings hewn into the soft rock amidst the spectacular limestone karst rock formations. After drive through Berdzor (formerly known as Lachin), to Shushi. Shushi is a great center of Armenian culture. Visiting Ghazanchetsots Cathedral, Shushi Fortress. After lunch trekking in Hunot canyon. Visiting "umbrella waterfall". Overnight in Stepanakert Hotel.

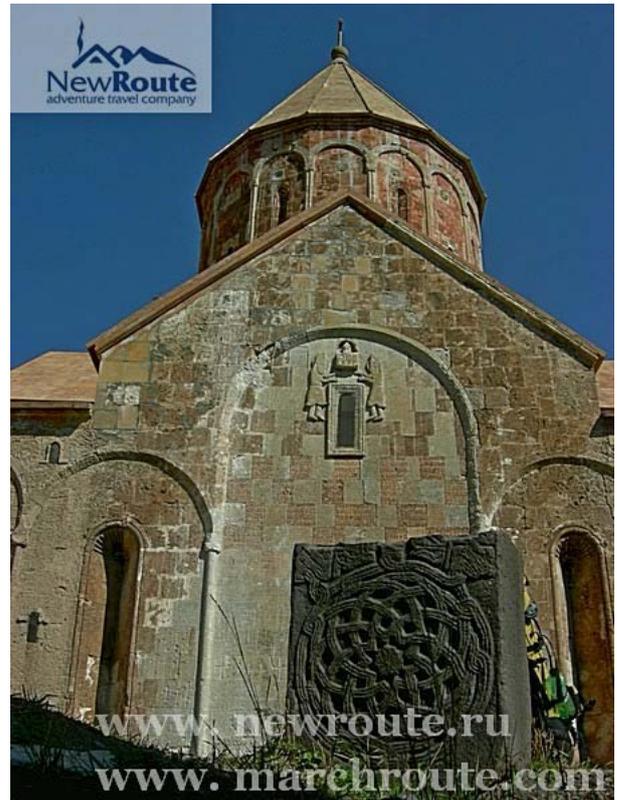


Hunot canyon and umbrella waterfall

Day 6. Breakfast. Driving to north of Republic. Within range of rugged mountains, deep canyons, limestone rock formations, and lush forests a wide of array of flora and fauna can be found. Vist to the Gandzasar Monastery (included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites), one of the most important architectural monuments of NKR. Literally translated, it means Treasure (gandz) Mountain (sar). Also visit Dadivank Monastery (was constructed in phases from the 5th to 13th centuries). After lunch explore the thermal springs and enjoy the natural beauty of the landscape along the Terterchay River. Crossing the Zod pass. Dinner and overnight in Martuni Hotel.

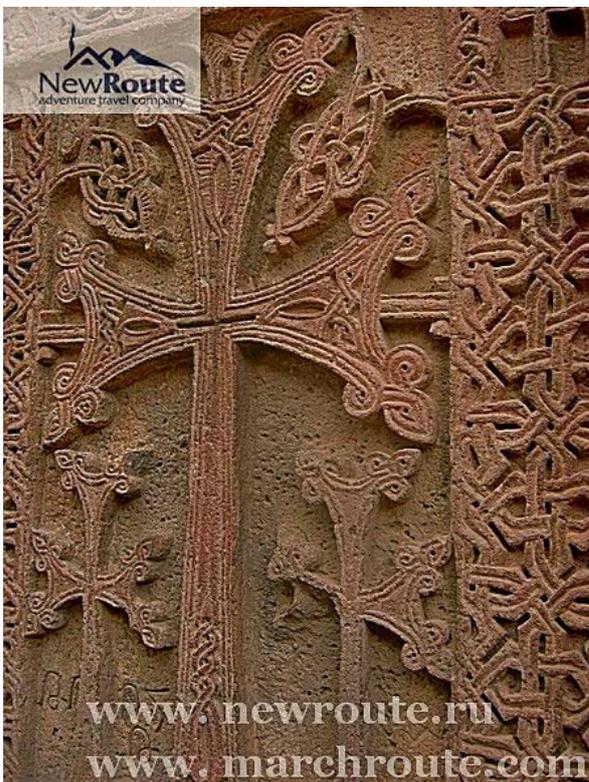


Thermal mineral springs in Tar-Tar river valley

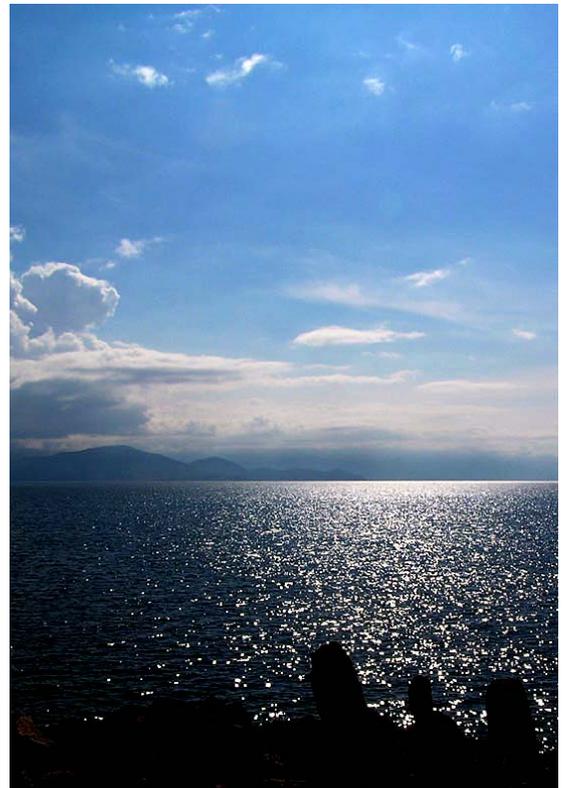


Dadivank Monastery

Day 7. Breakfast. Drive along the Lake Sevan to admire the beauty of the aquamarine waters of this huge alpine lake, described as "a genuine piece of sky in the dropped from heaven into the mountains". Visit Noratus cemetery, it has the largest collection of `hachkars` (stone with a cross on it) and some other historical tombs. Sevanavank Monastery (9th century). Overnight in Sevan Hotel.

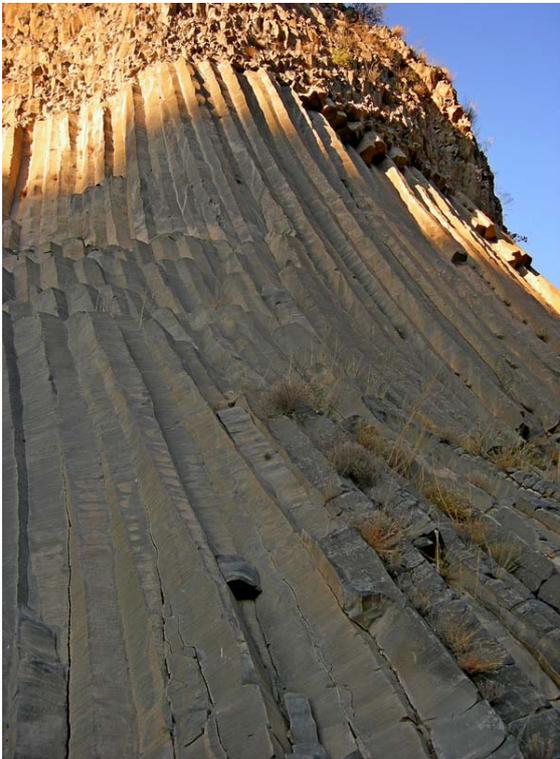


Hachkar (stone with a cross on it)

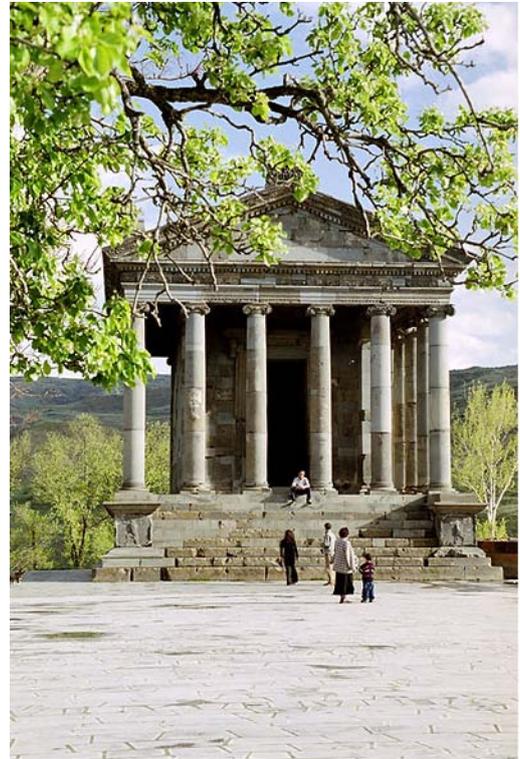


Sevan Lake

Day 8. Day trip to the restored temple Garni which was a pagan temple in 1AD. It was devoted to one of the Armenian pagan gods – Mitra. After Armenia converted to Christianity in the 4th century, the rulers used the temple as their summer residence. Drive to Geghart, the cave monastery which is cut into the side of a cliff. This cave has a history from the 10-12 century. Hiking to Azat river valley. Giant vertical basalt columns seem like they link the earth to the sky if you're standing right next to them at the bottom. Free evening in Erevan. Overnight in hotel.



Vertical basalt columns



Garni temple

Day 9. Transfer to Zvartnots International Airport.

Price per person for the trip: €

Groupe	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
Price, €	750	800	900	1000	1000	1100	1100	1600	1600

The price includes:

- All necessary transfers required for carrying out the trip.
- Accommodation according to the program.
- Full board throughout the trip, excluding farewell dinner.
- NewRoute mountain guide.
- NewRoute Outdoor Cook.
- Necessary formality (visa support, passport registration, border permit).
- National Park fee

Not included:

- Flights to / from Erevan airport
- Unexpected preliminary evacuation cost
- Insurance
- Personal expenses, alcohol

Visa costs

Attention!

For citizens of European countries, US, Canada, Japan, Korea, Australia, etc, visas may be obtained upon arrival at Zvartnots airport or at Armenian consulates and embassies in respective countries. You are also encouraged to request an Armenian E-Visa electronically via Internet at

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

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