

VIS-A-VIS TOUR
ARMENIA

Armenia

Welcome to Noah's Land!

Country Profile

Armenia, officially the **Republic of Armenia** is a sovereign state in the South Caucasus region of Eurasia. Located in West Asia on the "Armenian Highlands", it is bordered by **Turkey** to the west, **Georgia** to the north, **Azerbaijan** to the east, and **Iran** to the south.



Population	3,051,250
Land Area	29.800 sq. km
Capital	Yerevan
Language	Armenian
Religion	Christianity
Currency	Armenian Drams
Time zone	GMT +4

A Brief History of Armenia

The Great Armenia (or the Kingdom of Armenia) reached its height during the governing of Tigran the Great in I century B.C. Tigran's extensive empire reached from the **Caspian Sea** to the **Mediterranean**, from **Tigris** and **Euphrates** to the foothills of the **Great Caucasus**. The first centuries of new era passed in constant wars between **Roman Empire** and becoming strong **Persian kingdom**. The clash arena of two great states was **Armenia** which they divided between themselves in V century. But long before that, during the governing of the dynasty of **Arshakunis,** which came to the throne in I century A.C., an important event took place in life of the Armenian nation. In **301** Armenia adopted **Christianity** as a state religion thus becoming **the first Christian state in the world**. Armenia remained divided between **Byzantium** and **Persia** till the procession of the new religion Islam started. The creation of powerful Arabian caliphate became a historical reality, and many nations and rulers of ancient world had to reckon with it. But Armenians continued to struggle against Arabs and in XI century re-established their independence. Armenia of the **Bagratunis era** has reached its highest prosperity in X-XI centuries, with its capital Ani, known for its 1000 churches. In XIII century the Tatar-Mongolian invasion completed the destruction of the country. Escaping from enemy incursions and intrigues of Byzantine rulers on south-west coast of the Mediterranean Sea, Armenian princes managed to create there an **independent princedom in XI century**. In 1190 the emperor of Germany Frederick Red-Bearded admitted the existence of Armenian princedom. January 6, 1198 is the date of official declaration of **Kilikian Kingdom**. Over a period of XV-XVII centuries the territory of Armenia was an arena of constant wars between Ottoman Turkey and Persia. In 1639 they divided Armenia between themselves. In 1828 as a result of Russian-Persian war Eastern Armenia was affiliated to Russia. In 1918 on the territory of Eastern Armenia an independent Armenian republic was proclaimed, where in November 1920 the Soviet rule was established. **21 September 1991** is the date of formation of the **Republic of Armenia.**



The land of Noah

On his descent from Ararat, Noah first stepped onto the land now known to the world as the country of Armenia, the country of talking stones...

The name **“Ararat”** is mentioned four times in the **Bible’s** original manuscripts (Genesis 8:4; 2 Kings 19:37; Isaiah 37:38; Jeremiah 51:27). It is the national **symbol of Armenia** and has been considered a sacred mountain by Armenians.

The Armenian people are one of the most ancient nations in the world. Armenian highland is a geographical region where the Armenian people were formed as a nation and lived over centuries to the present day, thus creating a vast and rich heritage of unique history and culture for over three millennia.

Nowadays Armenia is a small, mountainous country located in the southern Caucasus between the Black and the Caspian seas. About the size of Belgium, Armenia has varied topology including a large mountain lake (Sevan), ski areas, gorges, canyons, valleys, and mountain passes, which resemble the Swiss Alps. For its alpine meadows, pomegranate groves, snow-covered mountain peaks, colourful subtropical regions, and sun-filled valleys, it has been called a "paradise for artists". For most countries Armenia is considered an off-the-beaten-path destination and usually surprises tourists with its originality and uniqueness.



The First Christian Country in the World

Etchmiadzin Cathedral was built between 301 and 303. It is the mother church of the Armenian Apostolic Church, located in the city of Vagharshapat (Etchmiadzin).
According to scholars it was the first cathedral built in ancient Armenia, and is considered the oldest cathedral in the world. The Kingdom of Armenia under Trdat III became the first country in the world to adopt Christianity as a state religion in **301**. According to History of the Armenians, Armenia's patron **saint Gregory the Illuminator** had a vision of **Jesus Christ** descending from heaven and striking the earth with a golden hammer to show where the cathedral should be built. Along with several important early medieval churches located nearby, the cathedral was listed as **a World Heritage Site** by **UNESCO** in 2000.
In the first years of the next century, Saint Mesrop Mashtots invented the unique Armenian Alphabet (**405 AD).**





Pope Francis Pilgrimage to the First Christian Country

10 reasons why Armenia is a must visit country

1.According to WEF (World Economic Forum) **Armenia** is one of **the safest** countries in the world (http://reports.weforum.org), and Fodors Travel Guide considered Armenia as a **Must Go Country** https://www.fodors.com/news/photos/fodors-go-list-2018).



2. Armenia is an open-air museum. It is a land of gorgeous mountains and vistas, with a treasure trove of ancient cultural and historical sites included in **UNESCO** world heritage list.

3. **Armenia is the country of sun – 333 sunny days during the year.**

4. **To enjoy from the wild, mysterious and magnificent nature with its diversified landscapes.** This is the country where you can travel 50 minutes and see what life could be hundreds of years ago.



5. **To taste the most delicious and ancient cuisine in the South Caucasus** (**great variety of local fruits and vegetables**, **Armenian apricot** "fructus armenicus", Armenian traditional bread **lavash** and the famous Armenian **Cognac,** that Sir Winston Churchill appreciated so much).

6. **To ride world's longest non-stop double track cable car "Wings of Tatev"("Tatever") recorded in the Guinness record book.**

7. Unique authentic experience. Interact with local people and admire infinite hospitality.



8. Armenia is the **first Christian country** around the world (you can also visit one of the oldest churches in the world - a holy place for Christendom - **Echmiadzin** cathedral).

9. Discover the magnificent **Biblical Mount Ararat** that shines with its two white peaks, which looks majestic from anywhere in Yerevan.

10. **No entry Visa!**

Ancient and Modern Capital Yerevan

















Armenian Breathtaking Nature










Hidden Treasures of Armenia



The 10th-century **Akhtala Monastery** is among the most well-preserved monasteries in modern Armenia. The main church of the complex is famous for its highly **artistic frescoes**, which cover the inside walls, the partitions, and the bearings of the building



Lake Kari(Lake Qari)
Is located in the slopes of Mount Aragats mostly formed by ice and snow. It is located 3,190 m above the sea level and has a perimeter of 1,150 m

Zvartnots temple (641- 661 BC), the temple of "Vigil Forces". It is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (2000)



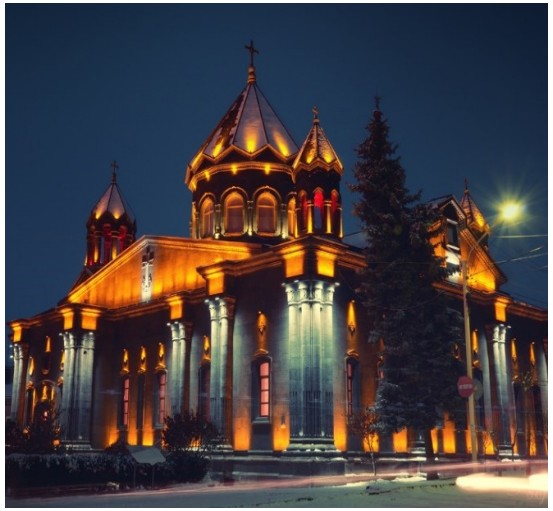
Ancient "**Qarahunj**" Observatory (29 years old)



"Jermuk Waterfall" (Mermaid hair) in Jermuk mountain spa town



St Astvatsatsin or Yot Verq (Seven Wounds) Church in Gyumri



Country of Sun

Another temptation in Armenia that no one can withstand is the existence of organic fruits and vegetables.













Feel the Taste of Armenia

















Rural Life



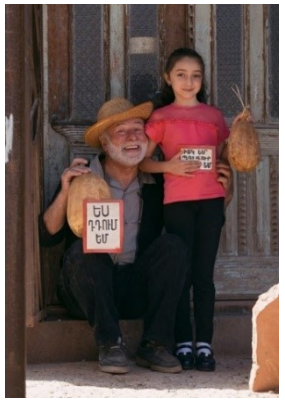






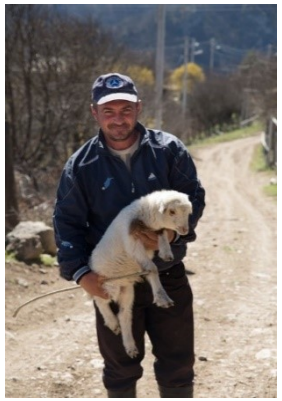
















Authentic experience in local village houses



This village house is in the heart of nature (in Garni Village), where everyone can get acquainted with master classes by preparing different traditional dishes. This experience will surprise you with its warmness, traditionalism, hospitality and delicious foods.





Lavash making

Family hosted lunch in village house and watching of “Lavash” (Armenian traditional flat bread baked in stone-made oven) making process.

Natural Honey

Texting pure mountain flower honey, also degustation of different homemade confitures.





Local dishes

There are also different aquarium fishes. The famous Armenian Fish –barbecue (trout, whitefish) is also cooking in the place (in Tonir), in front of your eyes.

Lavash Making Process in Garni Village



Follow to Armenia, Geghard Monastery (12th-13th cc)

The unique **St. Geghard** is a medieval carved Monastery. It is considered to be a wonderful architectural masterpiece.

The name of the monastery means “holy spear” in the honor of the long-preserved spear, the same spear that pierced the body of crucified **Christ**. It is now exhibited in the museum of **Etchmiadzin Cathedral**. The monastery complex was founded in the 4th century by Gregory the Illuminator.

The spectacular towering cliffs surrounding the monastery are part of the **Azat River gorge**, and are included together with the monastery in the **UNESCO World Heritage Site listing (2000).**



Undeniable beauty of Tatev Monastery! (9- 13th c)



The Tatev Monastery is one of the unique and beautiful monasteries in Armenia. It is a 9th century Armenian Apostolic monastery located on a large basalt plateau near the Tatev village. The monastic ensemble stands on the edge of a deep gorge of the **Vorotan River**.

It was built as an Armenian intellectual center where philosophers, musicians, painters and monks lived.

The monastery is the "best-known site" in Syunik Province in southeastern Armenia.

Wings of Tatev a cableway from Tatev to Halidzor village was opened in October 2010. It was included in the **Guinness World Records** as world's "**longest non-stop double track cable car".** In 1995, the monasteries of Tatev, Tatevi Anapat and their adjacent areas of the Vorotan Valley were added to the tentative list of World Heritage Sites of **UNESCO.**

Symbols of Armenia



Khachkar

Khachkars (Cross - stones) are characteristic of Medieval Christian **Armenian** art. Khachkar is a carved, memorial stele bearing a cross inside. It is made of basalt or tuff. They considered to be the symbol of eternity wheel. Since 2010 khachkars are included **UNESCO** list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.



Pomegranate

The pomegranate has been a symbol of Armenia and its people as long as they've existed. According to legend, the pomegranate symbolizes fertility, abundance, and marriage.



Duduk

The Duduk is an ancient double reed woodwind instrument made of apricot wood. **UNESCO** proclaimed the Armenian duduk and its music as a Masterpiece of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2005 and inscribed it in 2008.

Duduk music has been used in a number of films, most notably in ***The Russia House*** and **Gladiator**. Its delicate sounds capture thousands of hearts.



Carpet

Traditionally, since ancient times the **carpets** were used to cover floors, decorate interior walls, sofas, chairs, beds and tables. Armenian Carpets and Rugs are the most beautiful and ancient in the world. The world oldest Armenian carpet is located at a **museum in Vienna**.



Armenian BIO Cosmetics

Armenia is a land, where nature, tradition, and science come together. Nairian cosmetics are all-natural, free of parabens, non-toxic and organic. Nairian's team of workers, scientists and beauty consultants are using principles of aromatherapy, and the highest quality essential and carrier oils, to create unique skincare solutions. Here everyone can see how they collect natural flowers from the fields and create all organic and pure cosmetics.









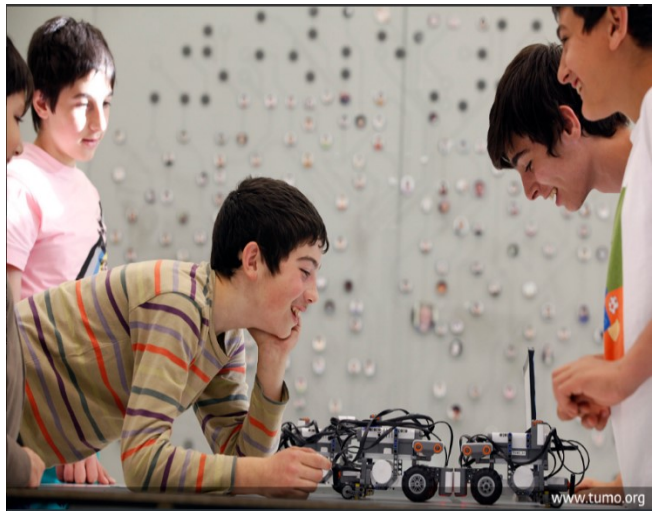








MADE IN ARMENIA



Armenia is not just a country of hospitality, historical places, delicious food and fascinating nature. Armenia is one of the most dynamically progressing countries in the field of **IT technologies** and not only. The Technology and Science Dynamics (TSD)company creates all sorts of smart technology, but the most popular and extensively recognized ones are **ArmPhone** smartphones and **ArmTab** tablets. Armenia is on its way to become one of the leaders of advanced technology. Soon, “Made in Armenia” label will be popular around the world.

Tumo (center for creative technologies) is another brand new developing center in the field of creative technologies.

French magazine “We Demain” has ranked Ten Best Schools worldwide with Armenian **Tumo** on the top of the list. Tumo has left behind such popular educational institutions as **AltSchool of Silicon Valley, Fuji Kindergarten of Tokyo, and Steve Jobs School.** Here they teach everything which is connected with modern science, technology and art: animation, WEB design, filmmaking, game development, music, writing, drawing, 2D graphics, 3D modeling, robotics, programming, motion graphics.







Growing Destination for MICE

Yerevan is a great place to organize meetings, incentive trips, **Conferences and Events** (**MICE**). It is also a proper place to combine business and pleasure in a unique way.



Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan

Marriott is located in the heart of Yerevan, in the Republic Square.
The hotel offers 259 rooms,
10 Conference Halls.
The biggest hall is “Grand Ballroon Tigran Mets”(585m²)
Theatre style-up to 550 people.



Best Western Congress Hotel Yerevan

The hotel offers 126 rooms, 3 Conference Halls.
The biggest hall is “Ball Room”(280m ²)
Theatre style- up to 300 people.



Radisson Blu Hotel Yerevan

The hotel offers 142 rooms,
6 Conference Halls.
The biggest hall is “Armenia Ballroom” (200m²)
Theatre style- up to 200 people.



Double Tree By Hilton Yerevan

The hotel offers 176 rooms, 8 Conference Halls.
The biggest hall is “Yerevan” (300m²)
Theater style- up to 250 people.











Ancient Country, Modern Looks







Armenia is a coloring and authentic country that keeps its national traditions, but at the same time moves in harmony with time.

The unique dressing style of Armenian nation has passed a long way of historical development. It has been one of the factors of national identity. Armenian nation has always had a very creative approach in combining old values with new ones especially in national clothing, folk music, traditional dances and national cuisine. Armenians who preserve old traditions create a modern fashion which reflects national values in each detail of culturally unique outfit. Armenian rich heritage is also a source of inspiration for worldwide famous designers.



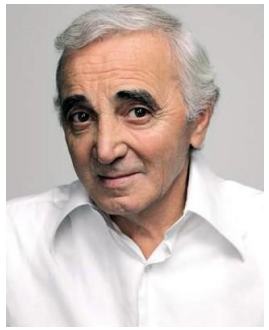




Famous Armenians

http://www.visavistour.com

Charles Aznavour (Armenian-French singer)



Aram Khachaturian (Soviet Armenian legendary composer)



Tigran Petrosian (Soviet Armenian Grandmaster, and World Chess Champion from 1963 to 1969)



Hovhannes Aivazovsky (Armenian legendary painter)



Cher (**Armenian-American singer and actress. Sometimes called the Goddess of Pop)**



Serj Tankian (Armenian-American singer-songwriter, composer, leader of popular SOAD rock group)



Andre Agassi(Armenian-American professional tennis player)



SOAD (**Armenian-American heavy metal band from Glendale, California, formed in 1994)**



Henrikh Mkhitaryan (Armenian professional footballer)



Armenian Inventors and Inventions

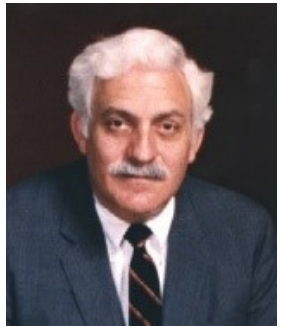
Hovhannes Adamian
(inventor of Color TV)



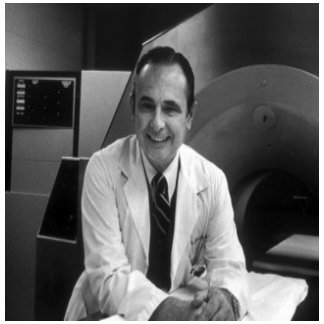
Albert Kapikian
Medical doctor (developed the first Rotavirus Vaccine)



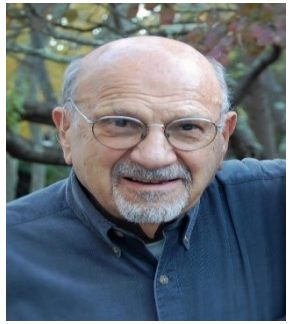
Raymond Damadian
(inventor of the first MRI Scanning Machine)



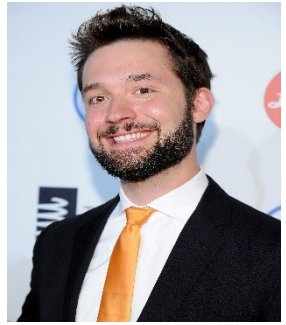
Michel Ter- Pogossian
(PET, the first functional brain imaging technology)



Ardashes Aykanian
(inventor of Bendy Straw)



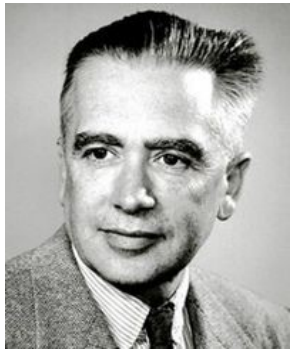
Alexis Ohanian
(Co-founder of Reddit)



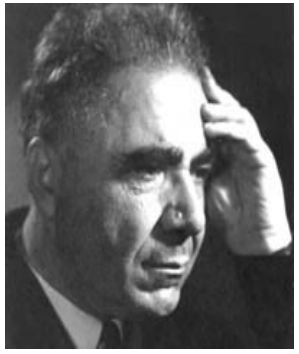
Artem Mikoyan
(MIG Military Aircraft)



Luther George Simjian
Inventor of ATM Machine, self-focusing camera, Color X-ray machine, exercise bike, flight simulator. Owner of over 200 patents.)



Victor Hambartsumian
(one of the founders of theoretical astrophysics, founded the Byurakan Observatory in Armenia)



Varazdat Kazanjian
(founding father of Modern Plastic Surgery)



Alex Seropian (video game developer, one of the initial founders and later president of Bungie Software Products Corporation)



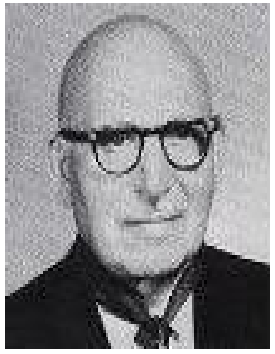
Alex Manoogian
(Founder of the Masco Corporation, Single Handle Faucet)



Ave Tevanian
(Computer Scientist, MAC OS X)



Harry Tatosian
(inventor of Ice-Cone Machine)





Tour Operator

Vis - A - Vis Tour Armenia

The best choice for you!

VIS-A-VIS TOUR
ARMENIA

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