



WEEKEND TRAVEL GUIDE

ARMENIA FOR A LONG WEEKEND

Yerevan, monasteries, mountains and wine in four days

BALU_TRAVEL

WHY THIS WEEKEND WORKS

Yerevan is compact enough for a short break but varied enough to feel like a real trip.



- Our format was four days, arriving late on Thursday and returning late on Monday.
- Direct flights and a hotel in the centre keep logistics simple.
- The city is easy to explore independently, while the mountain routes work better with a guide or driver.
- A short 3-4 day trip can feel more restorative than a week when the flight is easy.

DAY 1 - YEREVAN ON FOOT

A full walking route through the city's main landmarks.



- Start at the Cascade, then continue to Republic Square.
- Add Vernissage market, Northern Avenue and the Opera area.
- Visit the Blue Mosque and walk through Kond for an older, less polished side of the city.
- Leave the evening for cafés, wine and the illuminated square.

The centre is compact, but comfortable shoes still matter.

DAY 2 - KHOR VIRAP INDEPENDENTLY

A monastery with one of Armenia's most famous views.



- Khor Virap stands close to the Turkish border with Mount Ararat behind it.
- The site is linked with Gregory the Illuminator and the adoption of Christianity in Armenia.
- Go early for softer light and a better chance of a clear mountain view.
- Return to Yerevan for dinner at a traditional restaurant.

DAY 3 - GEGHARD, GARNI, SEVAN AND DILIJAN

A guide helps combine several very different landscapes in one day.



- Geghard Monastery is partly carved into the rock and is known for remarkable acoustics.
- Garni is Armenia's classical temple and a strong contrast to the monasteries.
- Lake Sevan is beautiful but windy, so pack a layer.
- Haghartsin Monastery sits in the forests near Dilijan and makes a calm final stop.

This is a long day. Agree the exact route and return time in advance.

DAY 4 - NORAVANK, ARENI AND THE AIRPORT

Use the final day for the red-rock landscape of the Arpa Valley.



- Noravank is reached through a dramatic canyon.
- The Areni-1 cave is an important archaeological site.
- A winery visit adds a tasting and a slower final stop.
- Return to Yerevan, collect luggage and allow a generous airport buffer.

PRACTICAL DETAILS

A few preparations make the short itinerary much easier.



- Stay in central Yerevan. We used Time Hotel Yerevan on Nalbandyan Street.
- Use an eSIM or local SIM and keep offline maps ready.
- Carry Armenian dram for small purchases; a foreign card worked for larger payments during our trip.
- Book a reliable guide or driver for the two countryside days.
- For Russian citizens, entry requirements should be checked again before departure.

IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME

A 7-12 day route can add regions without turning the trip into a race.



- Add Gyumri for old streets, courtyards and cafés.
- Stay overnight in Dilijan rather than returning immediately.
- Combine Tatev with the Wings of Tatev cable car and southern landscapes.
- Consider Jermuk for a spa break or Aragats for mountain scenery.
- The best longer route includes at least one night outside Yerevan.

Check road and weather conditions in the mountains.