WHY ARMENIA

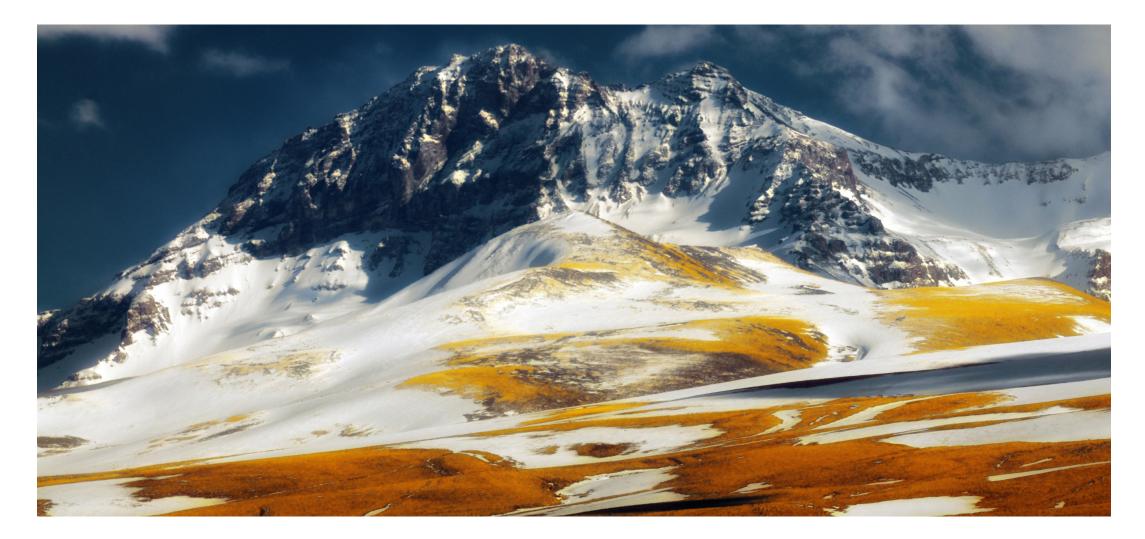
Whether you are an Armenian who has grown up on the shores of a different country, or a world traveler looking for the ideal mix of culture, adventure, and relaxation, Armenia welcomes you with open arms.

At the crossroads of cultures east and west, at the intersection of trade routes near and far, Armenia has a veritable trademark on hospitality and receptivity.

The recent growth of the tourism sector means more and more opportunities for Armenians to showcase their welcoming spirit, their gracious warm-heartedness and their generous nature.

Armenia is home to close-knit extended families always ready to accept a new member, be prepared to be adopted by an Armenian family, at least in spirit!

Leave behind of world of indifference and monotony and try Armenia's antidote of one part congeniality and one part hospitality.





TOP TEN REASONS TO VISIT ARMENIA

1. ONE OF THE WORLD'S OLDEST CIVILIZATIONS

Armenia once included Mount Ararat, which biblical tradition identifies as the mountain that Noah's ark rested on after the flood. The original Armenian name for the country was Hayk, later Hayastan, translated as the land of Haik, and consisting of the name Haik and the suffix '-stan' (land). Hayk is identified with the Sun-God Orion.



2. FIRST CHRISTIANS IN THE WORLD

IN 301 AD, THE KINGDOM OF ARMENIA BECAME THE FIRST STATE TO DECLARE CHRISTIANITY AS ITS OFFICIAL RELIGION, FOLLOWING THE CONVERSION OF THE ROYAL HOUSE OF THE ARSACIDS IN ARMENIA. THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH IS THE WORLD'S OLDEST CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

3. KARAHUNJ

Stonehenge is not unique, Karahunj (or Zorats Karer) observatory in Armenia is 3500 years old, it is more ancient than Stonehenge.



- CULTURAL Monasteries of Haghpat and Sanahin - CULTURAL CATHEDRAL AND CHURCHES OF ECHMIADZIN - CULTURAL THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF ZVARTNOTS - CULTURAL Monastery of Geghard - NATURAL THE UPPER AZAT VALLEY

5. NATURE SHOWN.

6. FOOD Armenian cuisine is considered one of the oldest IN ASIA AND THE OLDEST IN THE TRANSCAUCASUS. It's characteristic features were formed during THE MILLENNIA BC ENRICHED OVER THE CENTURIES. The climate and other geographical factors PLAT A GREAT ROLE IN THE QUALITY AND EXCEPTIONAL TASTE OF THE FOOD IN ARMENIA. THE FOOD IS VERY NUTRITIOUS. THE FESTIVE TABLE IS USUALLY SO ABUNDANT WITH DIFFERENT DISHES, SALADS AND DESSERTS THAT YOU CAN IMPRESS YOUR GUESTS. It is impossible to imagine an Armenian table WITHOUT A BUNCH OF CILANTRO, TARRAGON, PARSLEY, DILL, CORIANDER, CARDAMINE, BASIL, LEMON BALM AND CHIVES.

4. WORLD HERITAGE SITES (UNESCO) The following sites have been listed as world HERITAGE BY UNESCO:

THIS COUNTRY HAS MANY NATURAL MONUMENTS, IMPRESSIVE LANDSCAPES WITH HIGH MOUNTAINS, ROCKS, SLEEPING VOLCANOES, DEEP CANYONS, TURBULENT RIVERS, HIGH PLATEAUS, WHERE ONLY ON A SMALL PIECE OF LAND ALL GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS RANGING FROM DESERTS TO ETERNAL SNOWS ARE



Traveling on the same road as your ancestors is exciting and very adventures. The silk Road was about 7000 km long, and 500 km passed through Armenia. Have a walk on the old bridges and see the caravanserais (hotels of antiquity).

9. YEREVAN DAY AND NIGHT LIFE To visit one of the world's ancient continuously inhabited cities - Yerevan, the pinkcolored capital of Armenia founded in 782 B.C. It's called so because most of its building were built by the local pink rock (tuff) quarried in Armenia. Erebuni (Yerevan) fortress is 29 years older than Rome. This historical city becomes quite another place of ineterst during the night. Bars, Discotecs and casinos are waiting for you to enjoy and have unforgettable time.

IN ARMENIA ONE CAN FIND MANY KINDS OF SWEET FRUIT: APRICOT, POMEGRANATE, APPLE, PEAR, GRAPE, CHERRY, PEACH, PLUM, QUINCE, FIG, MELON, WATERMELON, CORNICES, BLACK AND WHITE MULBERRY, STRAWBERRY, RASPBERRY, BLUEBERRY, BLACKBERRY, ROSEHIP AND MUCH MORE.

Apricot certainly is much more for Armenians than just a fruit. It also symbolizes the lower band of the Armenian tricolor (red, blue, apricot color).

One cannot imagine Armenian dessert without tasty dried fruit (chir), unripe fruits and raisin, which are usually made of apple, plum (shelor), peach, grape and, of course, apricot (tsiran).

7. THE WORLD'S LONGEST AERIAL TRAMWAY

To arrive to the "Tatev wings", you should ride the world's longest aerial tramway (5.7 km), which will take you to the huge monastic complex of Tatev (10-th century), indeed a fairy-tale fortness - monastery nestled on a promontory surrounded by deep gorges.



8. SILK ROAD

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What the tourists mostly like when they visit Armenia is the secure atmosphere even at 2 pm in the morning walking along the streets of Yerevan. The one thing that really makes Armenia wonderful is the people. Hospitable, nice, usefull, with care and readiness to help and assist you. You can even nock the door of people, whom you have never seen in your life in the regions or villages, and you will be invited for a cup of coffee with all the sweets and tasty food they have at home, just to make ST TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.

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