

18 day trip.

DESCRIPTION (suggested main tour)

Day 1 Transfer to hotel. The programme depends on arrival time. **Night in Yerevan**

Day 2 Garni-Stone Symphony-Geghard Monastery-Garni- Dinner **Night in Garni**

On the road, see the landslide and its results of Voghjaberd village; Garni valley of columnar basaltic flows; Garni temple; Geghard Monastery and its around tuffaceous formations of upper Pliocene.

Day 3 Garni-Stone lake-South peak of Aragats mountain-Crater-Waterfall **Night in tents**

Visiting the Pleistocene formations of basalts, andesites and dacites.

Day 4 Waterfall-Aragats village-Aghveran **Night in Aghveran**

Again in the Pleistocene formations of basalts, andesites and dacites; on the road Neopleistocene volcanics; Precambrian basement of different metamorphic rocks, and upper Jurassic tonalitic intrusion in those formations.

Day 5 Aghveran-Bjni-Meghradzor-Fioletovo –Dilijan **Night in Dilijan**

In Precambrian basement: metagranites and then visiting Bjni Monastery; transferring to the Marmaric valley where Precambrian to Paleogene formations are widespread; by walking to traverse the Pambak mountain range and arriving to Margahovit village: the road passed within Jurassic (?) volcanic, Paleogene volcanic and intrusive formations including Alkaline complex of magmatics.

Day 6 Dilijan-Goshavank-Ijevan-Noyemberyan-Akhtala-Haghpat **Night in Haghpat**

The road passes in Paleogene, mainly middle-upper Eocene then middle-upper Jurassic essentially volcanic and volcanoclastic formations; visiting Goshavank Monastery; then the road continues in Jurassic mainly volcanic and upper Cretaceous carbonate formations in Ijevan-Noyemberyan section; in Akhtala-Haghpat part again lower(?) -middle Jurassic volcanic (including pillow flows) and intrusive (middle and upper Jurassic) formations are widespread; visiting Akhtala and Haghpat Monasteries. Seeing the doleritic basalts columnar flows of upper Pliocene in Debed valley.

Day 7 Haghpat-Sanahin-Odzun-Stepanavan-Gyumri **Night in Gyumri**

The road passes in middle Jurassic then middle and upper Eocene mainly volcanogenic formations from Haghpat to Gyumri; visiting Sanahin and Odzun Monasteries; on the road, near the Spitak town seeing the rupture of 1988 Spitak earthquake; visiting Gyumri – a City of Culture.

Day 8 Gyumri-Amasia-Yerevan**Night in Yerevan**

From Gyumri to Amasia village the road passes in tuffs of Eocene and volcanic and volcanoclastic formations of middle Eocene; then visiting the Amasia ophiolite (as an easternmost part of Lesser Caucasus ophiolite belt) to see the lithology of it and different contacts between those lithological units.

Day 9 Yerevan-Khor Virap-Avshar-Khosrov-Yelpin-Areni-Yeghegnadzor**Night in Yeghegnadzor**

Arriving Khor Virap Monastery and the round hill consists of Devonian and Permian mainly carbonate facies of sediments of Gondwanan self; next to Avshar village Sari-pap hill is of mainly Permian in age; visiting Vedi river valley in Khosrov State Reserve to see the Vedi ophiolite nap's thrusting contact over the Cenomanian limestone and Turonian flysch deposits; then the road passes in Paleozoic, Eocene and partly upper Cretaceous series, while arriving in Yeghegnadzor a Wine break in village Areni.

Day 10 Yeghegnadzor-Getap-Noravank-Vayots Sar-Ughtasar**Night in tents**

Next to Getap village on the left bank of the river Arpa a nummulitic horizon of terrigenous series of Eocene is cut and turned by a small intrusion of granitoids of Oligocene; seeing the transgressive contact of and overthrustings in carbonates of Eocene over the Devonian series; visiting Noravank Monastery where the Paleozoic red-colored formations made a circus; Climbing young volcanoes of Vayots Sar and/or Ughtasar.

Day 11 Ughtasar-Lake above Tsghuk village**Night in tents**

Trekking on 2500-3300 m elevations, seeing a number volcanic formations and lava tongues.

One of Armenia's least known and interesting attractions with an abundance of ancient petroglyphs which are between four and seven thousand years old.

Day 12 Lake above Tsghuk village-Tsghuk village-Qarahunj-Tatev-Goris**Night in Goris**

Visiting the Observatory of Qarahunj, then Tatev; arriving by cable-car to the Tatev Monastery; arriving Goris city, the road passes mainly in upper Pliocene volcanic and volcanogenic series

Day 13 Goris-Kapan-Qajaran-Meghri**Night in Meghri**

From Goris to Kapan cities the highway passes mainly in the middle and upper Jurassic volcanic, lower Cretaceous carbonate facies of rocks; from Kapan to Kajaran similar formations of Jurassic and Cretaceous, as well as Devonian carbonate series are widespread before arriving the Meghri pluton; Kajaran-Meghri transect passes in various composition of plutonic rocks of this pluton that are middle-upper Eocene to upper Oligocene in age.

Day 14 Meghri-Shikahogh-Kapan-Shushi**Night in Shushi**

From Meghri town, continuing by the left slope of Araks valey the road cuts the metamorphic narrow belt of Cretaceous (?) deposits, then through the Meghri pluton rises up; then passes the larger tonalite-granitic intrusion of Tsav and into the upper Jurassic formations arrives to Kapan city. After Goris, up to Shushi town the highway passes the upper then lower Cretaceous sedimentary deposits, lower(?) -middle Jurassic mainly pillow lavas cut by the middle Jurassic plagiogranites; on the main Lisagor pass it crossed so considered ophiolitic suture followed again nice pillowed lavas and tufaceous deposits as well; visiting Shushi Monastery and Geological museum (?).

Day 15 Shushi-Jdrduz-Waterfalls-Stepanakert-Vank village**Night in Vank village**

From Shushi to Stepanakert and then to Vank village is the predominance of middle and upper Jurassic mainly volcanic formations;

Day 16 Vank Village-Gandzasar-Drmbon village-Dadivank-Vardenis-Martuni**Night in Martuni**

After visiting Gandzasar Monastery, the road continues to Drmbon village (Sarsang water reservoir) by the valley of Tar-tar river cuts the Jurassic volcanic, upper Cretaceous terrigen, then Mesozoic ophiolitic series with interesting relationships of various origin and aged deposits; visiting Dadivank Monastery; continue climbing to the Sotk pass within ophiolitic mélangé series and arriving Martuni by Vardenis.

Day 17 Martuni-Sevan (Eastern side)-Yerevan**Night in Yerevan**

Returning back to Vardenis and then in NE coast of Sevan lake in some (e.g. 3-4) valleys seeing Sevan ophiolite lithologies and tectonic contacts in those formations and more recent ones; After Shorzha village the road passes in the Eocene volcanogenic series up to Sevan town; arriving Yerevan.

Day 18 Yerevan-City tour-Farewell Dinner-Departure