Yerevan Travel Guide

Yerevan: Ancient Echoes and Modern Energy

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Things to do in Yerevan

Landmarks & Monuments

Iconic structures that define Yerevan's skyline and historical identity, from Soviet-era grandeur to ancient religious monuments.



Must See

Republic Square

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

The heart of Yerevan, surrounded by neoclassical government buildings with a striking dancing fountains display. The square's pink tufa architecture glows beautifully at sunset. A showpiece of Soviet-era urban planning. **Essential photo spot.**



Must See

Cascade Complex

2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

A monumental 572-step staircase. Offers panoramic city views from the top and connects to a contemporary art museum inside. **Best visited at golden hour.**



Must See

Tsitsernakaberd Genocide Memorial

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

A powerful monument dedicated to the 1.5 million Armenians who perished in the 1915 genocide. The eternal flame within the complex symbolizes remembrance. Includes a comprehensive museum with historical artifacts and survivor testimonies. **Deeply moving and culturally significant.**

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- Visit Republic Square in the evening when fountains are lit and buildings are illuminated
- Wear comfortable shoes for the Cascade Complex—573 steps to the top
- Photography prohibited at Genocide Memorial; allow time for quiet reflection

Museums & Galleries

World-class collections spanning Armenian art, history, and contemporary works in beautifully restored buildings.



Must See

National Museum of Armenia

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Armenia's flagship museum housing archaeological treasures, Soviet-era artifacts, Its collections focus on archaeology, ethnography, numismatics, and documentary materials. Highlights include ancient pottery, For Armenian manuscript collections, visit the Matenadaran; the History Museum’s collection is primarily archaeological, and modern installations. The building itself, constructed in pink tufa stone, is architectural artwork. **Essential cultural experience.**



Top Pick Book Ahead

Matenadaran (Institute of Ancient Manuscripts)

1.5-2 hours Book Ahead

Map

Repository of 17,000+ ancient Armenian manuscripts dating back to the 5th century. Exhibits calligraphy, illuminated texts, and religious documents that shaped Armenian civilization. The library's ornate halls and marble staircases are equally impressive as the collections.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- Buy a combined ticket for National Museum and adjacent buildings to save money
- Visit Matenadaran on weekdays for smaller crowds and faster tours
- Photography fees apply at many museums—ask at entry
- Spring is best for the Botanical Garden when flowers bloom

Religious Sites

Armenia's ancient Christian heritage preserved in churches, cathedrals, and spiritual landmarks spanning centuries.



Must See

St. Gregory of the Illuminator Cathedral

1 hour No Booking Needed

Map

Modern architectural marvel built to commemorate 1,700 years of Armenian Christianity. The cathedral's interior features intricate stone carvings, towering columns, and soaring arches. Active place of worship with regular services. Visitors welcome; dress modestly. Sweeping city views from the plaza.



Must See

Khor Virap Monastery

3-4 hours including travel No Booking Needed

Map

The present monastery complex and main church date to the 17th century; an earlier chapel was built around 642. According to tradition, St. Gregory the Illuminator was imprisoned here in a pit for 13 years. Climb underground chamber steps for an immersive spiritual experience. **Iconic photo location.** Requires day trip (35km south).

Tips for Religious Sites

- Women should bring scarves for headcovering in religious sites
- Visit early morning for solitude and best photography light
- St. Gregory Cathedral's plaza hosts the main Sunday liturgy—atmospheric to attend
- Khor Virap best visited as organized tour; book the evening before

Neighborhoods & Districts

Distinct neighborhoods each with unique character, architecture, and cultural atmosphere reflecting different eras of Yerevan.



Top Pick

Northern Avenue

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Restored pedestrian boulevard lined with French-style mansions, boutique shops, art galleries, and trendy cafes. Rebuilt with fountains and green spaces to recreate 19th-century elegance. Perfect for strolling, shopping, and people-watching. **Yerevan's most walkable shopping district.**



Notable

Arabkir District

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Bohemian neighborhood known for street art murals, underground galleries, independent bookstores, and creative cafes. Home to many artists and young professionals. Vintage markets and second-hand shops showcase Armenian culture. Vibrant nightlife scene. **Authentic local vibe.**

Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- Old City offers the most authentic local experience—get lost intentionally
- Northern Avenue is premium shopping; better prices in Old City markets
- Arabkir comes alive after 7pm with galleries and bars opening
- Hire a local guide for deeper neighborhood history and connections

Parks & Gardens

Green spaces offering respite from urban energy with walking paths, sculptures, seasonal blooms, and mountain vistas.



Top Pick

Victory Park

1.5 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Hilltop park dominated by the Memorial to Soviet soldiers with sweeping Ararat views. Landscaped gardens, walking paths, and historical monuments. Less touristy than other parks. Locals frequent for morning jogs and evening strolls. **Best for sunset city panorama.**



Notable

Lovers' Park (Martiros Saryan Park)

1-1.5 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Compact green space at the intersection of Marshal Baghramyan Avenue and Demirchyan Street. The park was renamed Lovers’ Park in 1995; it was previously known as Pushkin Park and Friendship Park. Peaceful atmosphere away from central tourist areas. Perfect for romantic strolls or quiet contemplation.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Visit botanical garden in spring (April-May) for maximum flower displays
- Bring water and sun protection for higher elevation parks
- Parks are safest and most crowded during daylight hours
- Evening walks popular among families; good time for people-watching

Fountains & Public Art

Striking public sculptures, water features, and street art installations that define Yerevan's contemporary aesthetic.



Must See

Republic Square Dancing Fountains

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

Choreographed fountain display synchronized to classical and contemporary music. Water jets shoot and dance in rhythmic patterns creating mesmerizing visual show. Evening performances with colored lighting are spectacular. **Free evening shows in season.**



Top Pick

Cascade Garden Sculptures

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Contemporary art installations scattered throughout the Cascade staircase featuring works by international artists. Sculptures blend with water features and architectural elements. Exhibition changes seasonally. Integration of art and nature creates Instagram-worthy moments.



Notable

Street Art in Arabkir

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Colorful murals and graffiti art cover buildings throughout the neighborhood. Themes range from political statements to whimsical designs. The art evolves constantly as new pieces appear. Walking tour captures the neighborhood's creative spirit and counter-culture identity.

Tips for Fountains & Public Art

- Fountain shows typically run 9pm-11pm; check seasonal schedule
- Best Cascade sculpture photos from below looking up toward the top
- Arabkir street art changes frequently—visit multiple times for new pieces

Tours & Activities

Guided experiences and organized activities providing deeper cultural immersion and local insights.



Top Pick Book Ahead

City Walking Tour

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Guided tours through central Yerevan covering architecture, history, and culture. Local guides share stories about neighborhoods, point out hidden gems, and explain Soviet-era urban planning. Tours customizable by interest (art, history, food, architecture). **Highly recommended for context.**



Top Pick Book Ahead

Vernissage Art Market Tour

1.5-2 hours Book Ahead

Weekend art market featuring local artists selling paintings, crafts, khachkars (carved stone crosses), and Armenian souvenirs. Haggling expected. Tour includes artist interactions and selection guidance. **Best experience with a guide who has artist connections.**



Top Pick Book Ahead

Wine Tasting Experience

2 hours Book Ahead

Armenian wine tastings in wine bars or at local wineries featuring indigenous grape varieties like Areni. Learn about Armenia's ancient winemaking heritage (6,000+ years). Tastings paired with traditional cheese and bread. **Small group experiences more rewarding than large tours.**

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book walking tours through your hotel or Airbnb host for best rates
- Vernissage open Saturdays and Sundays in Republic Square area
- Wine tastings best done in afternoon; avoid drinking on empty stomach
- Guides often have connections for museum discounts—ask when booking

Day Trips & Excursions

Nearby destinations easily accessible from Yerevan revealing Armenia's countryside heritage and natural wonders.



Must See Book Ahead

Khor Virap & Ararat Region

4-5 hours Book Ahead

Map

Ancient monastery with direct Mount Ararat views (weather permitting). Border region where Turkey and Armenia meet. Visit brandy factory and traditional villages. Wine region with local wineries. Complete immersion in Armenian culture and stunning landscapes. **Most iconic half-day excursion.**

Must See Book Ahead

Geghard is UNESCO-listed; Garni is not part of that World Heritage property.

5-6 hours Book Ahead

Map

Ancient carved monastery hewn partially into mountainside (40km northeast). Acoustics famous for unique echo effects. Nearby Garni pre-Christian temple ruins overlook scenic gorge. Combination visit shows Armenia's religious evolution. Popular packaged tour destination.



Top Pick

Lake Sevan

6-8 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Armenia's largest freshwater lake (60km northeast) surrounded by mountains. Swimming, boat tours, lakeside monasteries, and fish restaurants. Sevan Monastery ruins on peninsula. Alpine scenery and peaceful atmosphere. Full-day excursion with picnic option. **Nature lovers' escape.**

Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- Combine Khor Virap with wine region tour for fuller experience
- Geghard+Garni package often includes lunch at local restaurant
- Lake Sevan best in summer; can be windy in shoulder seasons
- Hire private driver rather than group tour for flexibility

Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Yerevan, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).

Elie's Lahmajun★★★★★ 4.9 (796)

1-2 hours

Map

Elie's Lahmajun is a highly-rated restaurant in Yerevan, rated 4.9★ from 796 reviews. Located at 25, 1/1 Marksi poxoc, Yerevan 0010, Armenia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed

Future Diner★★★★★ 4.9 (460)

1-2 hours

Map

Future Diner is a highly-rated restaurant in Yerevan, rated 4.9★ from 460 reviews. Located at 25 Mesrop Mashtoc pokhota, Yerevan 0002, Armenia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 5:00 – 11:00 PM

T Philosophy★★★★★ 4.8 (539)

1-2 hours

Map

T Philosophy is a highly-rated restaurant in Yerevan, rated 4.8★ from 539 reviews. Located at 2, 67 Tamanyan St, Yerevan 0009, Armenia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 11:59 PM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 11:59 PM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 11:59 PM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 11:59 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 11:59 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 11:59 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 11:59 PM

L'ÉTÉ Cafe & Veranda★★★★★ 4.8 (732)

1-2 hours

Map

L'ÉTÉ Cafe & Veranda is a highly-rated restaurant in Yerevan, rated 4.8★ from 732 reviews. Located at 5, 1 Hyusisayin poghota, Yerevan 0001, Armenia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 6:30 AM – 1:00 AM
- Tuesday: 6:30 AM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 6:30 AM – 1:00 AM
- Thursday: 6:30 AM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 6:30 AM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 6:30 AM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: 6:30 AM – 1:00 AM

Black Angus Signature★★★★★ 4.8 (522)

1-2 hours

Map

Black Angus Signature is a highly-rated restaurant in Yerevan, rated 4.8★ from 522 reviews. Located at 34 Tumanyan St, Yerevan, Armenia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 AM

InTempo★★★★★ 4.8 (881)

1-2 hours

Map

InTempo is a highly-rated restaurant in Yerevan, rated 4.8★ from 881 reviews. Located at 10 Hyusisayin poghota, Yerevan, Armenia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Como★★★★★ 4.8 (313)

1-2 hours

Map

Como is a highly-rated restaurant in Yerevan, rated 4.8★ from 313 reviews. Located at 25 Pushkin St, Yerevan 0002, Armenia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM

Corpous Gastro Bar★★★★★ 4.8 (208)

1-2 hours

Map

Corpous Gastro Bar is a highly-rated restaurant in Yerevan, rated 4.8★ from 208 reviews. Located at 5 Hyusisayin poghota, Yerevan, Armenia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 8:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 8:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 8:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 8:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 8:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 8:30 AM – 12:00 AM

STEAKARAR YEREVAN★★★★★ 4.8 (125)

1-2 hours

Map

STEAKARAR YEREVAN is a highly-rated restaurant in Yerevan, rated 4.8★ from 125 reviews. Located at 6 Martiros Saryan St, Yerevan 0002, Armenia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 1:00 – 11:45 PM
- Tuesday: 1:00 – 11:45 PM
- Wednesday: 1:00 – 11:45 PM
- Thursday: 1:00 – 11:45 PM
- Friday: 1:00 – 11:45 PM
- Saturday: 1:00 – 11:45 PM
- Sunday: 1:00 – 11:45 PM

Tavern Yerevan★★★★★ 4.8 (685)

1-2 hours

Map

Tavern Yerevan is a highly-rated restaurant in Yerevan, rated 4.8★ from 685 reviews. Located at 7 Paronyan poxoc, Yerevan 0015, Armenia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM

Collective Yerevan★★★★★ 4.7 (951)

1-2 hours

Map

Collective Yerevan is a highly-rated restaurant in Yerevan, rated 4.7★ from 951 reviews. Located at 40 Pushkin St, Yerevan 0010, Armenia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Tuesday: 7:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Wednesday: 7:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Thursday: 7:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Friday: 7:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Saturday: 7:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Sunday: 7:00 AM – 2:00 AM

Tavern Yerevan (Teryan) Պանդոկ Երևան (Տերյան)★★★★★ 4.7 (1,817)

1-2 hours

Map

Tavern Yerevan (Teryan) Պանդոկ Երևան (Տերյան) is a highly-rated restaurant in Yerevan, rated 4.7★ from 1817 reviews. Located at 91 Teryan St, Yerevan 0009, Armenia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM

Yasaman Yerevan's Restaurant★★★★★ 4.7 (930)

1-2 hours

Map

Yasaman Yerevan's Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Yerevan, rated 4.7★ from 930 reviews. Located at M, 1/1 Եկմալյան փողոց, Երևան 0002, Armenia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Tavern Yerevan (Khorenatsi) Պանդոկ Երևան (Խորենացի)★★★★★ 4.7 (1,065)

1-2 hours

Map

Tavern Yerevan (Khorenatsi) Պանդոկ Երևան (Խորենացի) is a highly-rated restaurant in Yerevan, rated 4.7★ from 1065 reviews. Located at 29 Marksi poxoc, Yerevan 0002, Armenia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 9:30 AM – 12:00 AM

Gata Tavern★★★★★ 4.7 (1,407)

1-2 hours

Map

Gata Tavern is a highly-rated restaurant in Yerevan, rated 4.7★ from 1407 reviews. Located at 22 Tumanyan St, Yerevan 0001, Armenia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Practical Information

April-May (Spring): Pleasant temperatures (15-20°C), flowers bloom, perfect walking weather. Slightly rainy but manageable.

September-October (Fall): Ideal conditions (20-25°C), clear skies, harvest season, fewer tourists than summer. Most locals recommend fall.

June-August (Summer): Hot and dry (28-35°C), crowded with tourists, but long daylight. High season pricing.

November-March (Winter): Cold (0-10°C), occasional snow, many sites open but less hospitable. Fewer tourists, lower prices. City still vibrant with cultural events.

Avoid July-August if possible—extreme heat and peak tourist crowds. Spring and fall are sweet spots.

Getting to Yerevan: Zvartnots International Airport (about 12km west) is the main gateway. Taxis, ride-shares, and airport buses available to city center. Journey takes about 20-40 minutes depending on traffic.

Within Yerevan:

- **Metro:** Clean, fast system covering major zones. Single tickets are very cheap (check the current fare). Day pass available. Runs 6:30am-11pm.
- **Marshrutkas (Minibuses):** Shared vans following set routes. Cheap and authentic but crowded during rush hours.
- **Taxis:** Official taxis have meters; negotiate price with private drivers beforehand. Grab and Yandex apps available for app-based transport.
- **Walking:** Central Yerevan is walkable; neighborhoods are compact and pedestrian-friendly.

Day trips: Private hire car/driver , group tours, or marshrutka from main station.

✈ Airport Transfer

Zvartnots International Airport (EVN) to city center:

- **Bus 201:** Public bus to central Yerevan (Republic Square area) in about 30 minutes, check the current fare
- **Taxi (GG or Yandex app):** Metered ride to city center in 15-20 minutes, at a fare to confirm in the app
- **Private transfer:** Pre-booked car with driver waiting at arrivals, about 20 minutes to downtown at a price to confirm when booking

- **Airport shuttle minivan:** Shared minivan service to major hotels in 25-35 minutes, at a price to confirm when booking

What to Buy:

- **Armenian Brandy (Cognac):** World-famous Ararat brandy, premium aging quality, significantly cheaper than export prices. Bring empty bottles and fill at distillery for best deals.
- **Khachkars:** Intricately carved stone crosses, small replicas available for travelers. Each design unique, takes months to carve.
- **Carpets:** Hand-woven Armenian carpets with geometric patterns. Authentic pieces expensive; modern machine-made versions cheaper.
- **Pomegranate Products:** Jam, juice, molasses unique to Armenia. Health benefits and distinctive taste.
- **Lapis Lazuli Jewelry:** Semi-precious stone mined in Armenia, crafted into rings, necklaces, pendants.

Where to Shop:

- **Vernissage Market:** Weekend art market in Republic Square. Authentic crafts, reasonable prices, negotiate expected.
- **Northern Avenue:** International brands, Armenian designer boutiques, upscale shopping. Fixed prices.
- **Old City Shops:** Family-run stores, antiques, vintage items, hidden gems require exploration.

Bargaining: Expected at markets and with private sellers; not acceptable at malls or established shops. Haggle respectfully; starting at 70% of asking price is reasonable.

Major Festivals & Holidays:

- **Armenian Christmas (January 6):** Unique date in Eastern Orthodoxy. Processions, church services, family gatherings. City is quieter during this period.
- **Women's Day (March 8):** Widely celebrated in Armenia; flower shops overflow, public celebrations, special events.
- **Zvartnots Flower Festival (May):** Celebration in the flower gardens with concerts, exhibitions, and performances.
- **Republic Day (May 28):** Independence celebration with parades, concerts, fireworks in Republic Square. Street performances and festivities.
- **Genocide Remembrance Day (April 24):** Solemn commemoration. Candlelit vigils at Tsitsernakaberd. Respectful approach required.
- **Vardan's Day (February):** Religious celebration honoring a legendary battle for Christian faith.
- **Wine Festival (fall - seasonal):** Local wine producers showcase vintages. Held in various locations, dates vary yearly.

Summer Concert Season: Open-air classical concerts in parks and plazas (June-August). Check schedules at concert venues and hotels.

Day 1: Republican & Cascade
Morning: Explore Republic Square, watch fountain mechanics, visit National Museum. Lunch in nearby cafe. Afternoon: Climb Cascade Complex, enjoy views. Sunset at viewpoint overlooking city. Evening: Dinner in Old City, explore narrow lanes, try local tavern.

Day 2: Religious Heritage
Early start: Visit St. Gregory Cathedral (active services Sunday morning). Explore surroundings, observe worshippers. Late morning: Ancient churches tour. Lunch at traditional Armenian restaurant. Afternoon: Either day trip to Khor Virap or Geghard. Evening: Rest and reflection.

Day 3: Cultural Immersion
Morning: Matenadaran manuscript museum (book ahead). Explore Biblical translations and calligraphy. Lunch break. Afternoon: Vernissage Art Market (Saturday/Sunday) or Northern Avenue shopping. Browse galleries and boutiques. Evening: Wine tasting in local bar, pair with cheese and bread.

Day 4: Neighborhoods & Art
Morning: Explore Old City shengavit maze, visit galleries, interact with locals. Lunch in hidden courtyard cafe. Afternoon: Arabkir street art walking tour with local artist. Explore underground music venues, independent bookstores. Evening: Trendy Arabkir restaurant or rooftop bar.

Day 5: Nature & Countryside
Full day: Organize private car for Geghard + Lake Sevan or Khor Virap + wine region tour. Swim/explore at lake. Visit traditional villages. Wine tasting or brandy distillery tour. Return evening for final dinner overlooking city lights.

Golden Hour Photography (Best: 7-8am, 5-7pm):

- **Republic Square Fountains:** Position yourself at colonnade level looking toward government buildings. Pink tufa reflects sunset beautifully.
- **Cascade Complex:** Photograph from bottom looking up with city backdrop. Or from top overlooking Yerevan sprawl. Summer sunset light is magical.
- **Mount Ararat from Khor Virap:** Iconic shot of monastery with mountain backdrop. Early morning or late afternoon light most dramatic. Check clear weather forecasts.
- **Old City Courtyards:** Enter through archways into hidden courtyards with wooden balconies. Morning light creates dramatic shadows on aged stone.
- **Northern Avenue at Dusk:** Lamplit boulevard becomes romantic. Capture architectural details and street activity.

Instagram Favorites:

- Cascade sculptures from low angle against sky
- Dancing fountain action shots with reflection
- St. Gregory Cathedral interior columns and arches
- Sunset from Victory Park overlooking entire city
- Street art murals in Arabkir (ask artists' permission)

Photography Tips: Drones require special permits, check regulations. Respect privacy in religious sites; ask before photographing people. Professional equipment needs permits at some museums. Early morning best for avoiding crowds in tourist spots.

Voltage & Frequency: Armenia uses 230V, 50Hz AC.

Plug Types: Armenian outlets use European Type C and Type F plugs.

- **Type C (Europlug):** Two round pins, ungrounded. Common throughout Europe and Armenia.
- **Type F (Schuko):** Two round pins with earth contacts on sides. Standard in Germany and Eastern Europe.

Adapter Recommendations: Bring a dual Type C/F adapter or universal adapter covering European outlets. Available at airport shops and electronics stores (cheap). Consider bringing power strip for charging multiple devices.

Power Reliability: Electricity supply is reliable in central Yerevan. Occasional brown-outs in outlying areas. Hotels and major establishments have backup generators. Blackouts rare in tourist areas.

Must-Try Dishes:

- **Lula Kebab:** Ground meat kebab with bulgur and spices. Texture similar to falafel but meat-based. National treasure.
- **Harissa:** Ancient wheat and meat porridge cooked overnight, labor-intensive. Comfort food served at celebrations.
- **Lavash Bread:** Thin, crispy flatbread baked in traditional tandoor oven. Eaten with every meal, available everywhere.
- **Khorovatz (Kebab):** Grilled meat skewers, pork or lamb. Street food staple, quality varies.
- **Manti:** Pasta dumplings filled with meat, topped with yogurt and spiced butter. Labor-intensive specialty.
- **Lentil Soup:** Hearty everyday soup, comforting and inexpensive.
- **Pomegranate Molasses:** Sour fruit reduction used in cooking and salads. Uniquely Armenian flavor.

Dining Tips:

- **Breakfast:** Cheese, bread, jams, tea or coffee. Hotels include extensive spread.
- **Lunch:** Main meal, typically 1-3pm. Many restaurants close between lunch and dinner.
- **Dinner:** Later meal, starts 7pm or later. Social, leisurely event.
- **Local Restaurants:** Seek places where locals eat rather than obvious tourist spots. Better prices and quality.
- **Pricing:** Street food is cheapest, with upscale restaurants at higher prices. Wine/brandy adds cost.
- **Hospitality:** Armenians extremely hospitable; expect generous portions, offers of toasts (honor to accept small sips), family-style dining.