

General Information About ARMENIA from A to Z

Geographical Information

Armenia is situated in the northeast of the Armenian Upland between the Caucasus and Asia Minor and bordered by Georgia on the north, Azerbaijan on the east, Iran on the South and Turkey on the west. Armenia has a territory of 29 800 square kilometers and lies between 1000 and 2500 meters above sea level. According to general census of 2003 the population of Armenia is 3,2 million, 1.1 million of which lives in the capital. The highest peak is mount Aragats (4090 m), while the lowest point is River Debed (400 m). Yerevan is the capital and the largest city of Armenia.

Banking and Exchange

Banking hours in Yerevan are Monday-Friday: 10 am through 4 pm, Saturday 10 am through 1 pm. No lunch breaks!

You will find currency "changes" strewn all over Yerevan. Rates are posted outside for you to shop around.

There are ATM banking machines at Abovian, Tigran Mets, Tumanyan streets (Areximbank realizes the service without fee). These machines are available at Baghramian avenue, Isahakian and other streets (the service is carried out by HSBC Bank Armenia).

Climate and Temperature

Armenia is often referred to as a sunny country. Its climate ranges from dry subtropical to cold. The average temperature is +25C in July and -10C in January <http://www.meteo-tv.am>
The mountain peaks are covered with perennial snow, while their slopes are lined by alpine meadows. The best time to visit Armenia is spring or autumn.

Currency

Armenian national currency, the Dram, was introduced in November 1993. There are banknotes in 10, 25, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000, 5000, 20000, 50000 Dram denominations. Foreign currency (USD, Euro, Canadian Dollar, Japanese Yen, Dutch Guilder, Russian Ruble, etc.) can be exchanged in banks and currency exchange points throughout the city.

Approximate exchange rate is

Buying	Selling
1 USD – 550 AMD	1 USD – 562 AMD
1 GBP – 975 AMD	1 GBP – 986 AMD
1 EUR – 655 AMD	1 EUR – 663 AMD
1 RUR – 18 AMD	1 RUR – 20 AMD

Check the exchange rate at <http://www.cba.am>

Electricity

Electricity in Yerevan is 220 volt, 50 Hz. If you are coming from the States and your equipment is dual voltage you will only need a plug converter (from flat prongs to round ones). If you do not have it with you it can be possible to get one at any convenience store.

If your equipment is not multi-voltage bring something like a "Radio Shack" transformer, rated for your equipment.

Embassies, Consulates of Foreign Countries in RA

There are a number of embassies in Yerevan, here are some of them:

1. Canada (Honorary Consulate)

Address: 25/22, Demirchyan Str.

Tel: 56 79 03

2. China

Address: 12, Baghramyan Ave.

Tel: 56 00 67, 56 12 34

E-mail: chiemb@mbox.arminco.com

3. Egypt

Address: 6a, Sepouh Str.

Tel: 22 67 55, 22 01 17, 27 82 13

E-mail: egyemb@arminco.com

4. France

Address: 8, G. Lusavorich Str.

Tel: 56 11 03, 56 46 67, 58 35 11

E-mail: admin@ambafran.am

URL: www.ambafran.am

5. Georgia

Address: 42, Arami Str.

Tel: 58 55 11, 56 41 83

E-mail: georgia@arminco.com

6. Germany

Address: 29, Charents Str

Tel: 52 32 79, Consular Dept. 58 65 91, 52 45 81

E-mail: germemb@arminco.com

7. Greece

Address: 6, Demirchyan Str.

Tel: 53 00 51, Consular Dept. 53 67 54

E-mail: grembarm@arminco.com

8. Italy

Address: 5, Italia Str.

Tel: 54 23 35, 54 23 36

E-mail: ambitaly@arminco.com

URL: www.ambitarm.am

9. Italy (Honorary Consulate)

Address: 22, Eznik Koghbacu Str.

Tel: 54 56 97, 56 11 56

10. Iran

Address: 1, Budaghyan Str.

Tel: 23 29 20, 23 49 83, Consular Dept. 23 49 00

E-mail: info@iranembassy.am

URL: www.iranembassy.am

11. Lebanon

Address: 7, Vardanants Str.

Tel: 52 65 40, 56 14 96

E-mail: libarm@arminco.com

12. Russia

Address: 13a, G. Lusavorich Str.

Tel: Consular Dept. 58 98 43,

Man on duty 56 74 27

E-mail: rossia@arminco.com

URL: www.armenia.mid.ru

13. Syria

Address: 14, Baghramyan Ave.

Tel: Consular Dept. 52 40 28, 52 40 36, 52 90 23

E-mail: syria.em.arm@netsys.am

14. Ukraine

Address: Arabkir 29, bld. 5/1

Tel: 22 97 27

E-mail: ukremb@internet.am

URL: www.erevan.am/ukrembassy

15. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Address: 34, Baghramyan Ave.

Tel: 26 43 01

E-mail: britemb@arminco.com

16. United States of America

Address: 18 Baghramyan Ave.

Tel: 52 16 11, 52 46 61

E-mail: www.arminco.com/embusa

URL: www.usa.am

Flights

A number of international airlines have regular weekly flights to and from Yerevan. These are: Armenian International Airlines, Aeroflot Russian Airlines, Austrian Airlines, British Airways, etc. All of these airlines offer connecting flights to virtually every major city in the world.

Flights	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
London-Yerevan (British Airways)	00:15			00:15		00:15	
Yerevan-London (British Airways)	11:20			11:35		09:50	
Tehran-Yerevan (Caspian Airlines)	12:00			12:00			
Yerevan-Tehran (Caspian Airlines)	13:00			13:00			
Vienna-Yerevan (Austrian Airlines)	04:40	04:40	04:40		04:40		
Yerevan-Vienna (Austrian Airlines)	05:40	05:50	05:50		05:50		
Frankfurt-Yerevan (Armenian Airlines)						21:25	
Yerevan-Frankfurt (Armenian Airlines)						08:45	
Amsterdam-Yerevan (Armenian Airlines)				21:05			21:05
Yerevan-Amsterdam (Armenian Airlines)				07:00			07:00
Paris-Yerevan (Armenian Airlines)		01:15			01:15		
Yerevan-Paris (Armenian Airlines)	08:30			08:30			
Athens-Yerevan (Armenian Airlines)						22:00	
Yerevan-Athens (Armenian Airlines)						13:00	
Moscow-Yerevan (Aeroflot)	03:25 14:50	03:25 14:50	03:25 14:50	03:25 14:50	03:25 14:50	03:25 14:50	03:25 14:50
Yerevan-Moscow (Aeroflot)	04:55 16:05	04:55 16:05	04:55 16:05	04:55 16:05	04:55 16:05	04:55 16:05	04:55 16:05
Prague-Yerevan (Czech Airlines)	4:25			4:25			
Yerevan-Prague (Czech Airlines)	5:15			5:15			

Holidays

Virtually all stores and most of the retail businesses are open on national holidays and Saturdays. Most stores are open on Sundays as well! Store hours usually are from 10:00 am through 7:00 pm. Some stay open much later.

Language

The official language is Armenian, a separate branch of the Indo-European family. The modern Armenian literary language has two branches: Eastern Armenian, used in the Republic of Armenia, Nagorno Karabakh and Iran, as well as Western Armenian, used by the Diaspora Armenians. Here you speak in Russian and English.

Meals

Yerevan is a cosmopolitan city where it is possible to sample cuisine from all corners of the world. There are establishments to suite every taste, from burger joints to four star restaurants with exquisite cuisine. Yerevan has thousands of eateries to choose from in which you can sample Armenian cognac, enjoy meals, and savor the friendly atmosphere. The service in all restaurants and cafes in Armenia is at a very high level. You could always ask for the menu in English.

Post Office

There is a full-service post office (The Main Post Office) at the Republic Square on the ground level of the building across the street from Prime Minister's office and opposite the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Building, across the Republic Square. It is open from 9:00 am. through 7:00 pm. everyday, except Sunday.

Public Transportation

The following means of public transportation are available in Armenia: metro, bus, minibus, taxi, etc.

Metro: Yerevan subway system has one line stretching from the north to the Railroad Station in the southern edge of the city. There are 10 stations. The fare is 50 AMD (\$0.09) per ride.

Bus routs cross the city in major directions. The fare is also 50 AMD per ride.

Minibus routs, these 12/16 seat small busses connect virtually every point to every other point in the city. Very few fares on short-run routs are 50 AMD, but on most others the fare per ride is 100 AMD (\$0,18). They run until late at night.

Taxi Service: Probably this is the most inexpensive taxi system in the world. Average ride costs 1000-1200 AMD (\$1.8 - 2) per ride within the central part of the city, not including the tip! They are mostly very clean imported cars with courteous drivers. Here are some of them:

Franspark – 28 77 33 fare for 1km - 100 AMD (\$0.17)

Crystal Taxi Service – 55 05 05 fare for 1km – 70 AMD (\$0.12)

Regular taxi: There are taxi stands at major and busy intersections. Fares are subject to negotiation, and are higher than Telephone-Taxis.

Religion

In 301 King Trdat III declared Christianity the state religion in Armenia. Armenians converted to Christianity in the early 4th century and by some accounts were the first in the world to adopt Christianity as a state religion. Most ethnic Armenians belong to the Armenian Apostolic Church.

There are many ancient churches and monasteries in Armenia like Ohanavank (5c.), Hayravanq (9c.), Odzoun (6c.), Karmavor (7c.), Haghbat (10c.), Sanahin (10c.), etc.

Sights of Armenia

There are many places in Armenia that are worth to be seen: in Yerevan – Matenadaran, Tsitsernakaberd, Panteon, Opera House, etc., Echmiadsin (Holy Mother Cathedral, etc.), Khor Virap (the place where one gets very close to the legendary Mount Ararat), Garni (the unique remained pagan temple in Armenia), Gegard, pearl of Armenia – Lake Sevan and many other historical places. Very interesting tour programs (tour packages, daily tours) are suggested by “Hyur Service”. Visit

http://www.hyurservice.com/tours_eng.html for more details

Telephone Calls

The country code is 374 + the city code (1 for Yerevan). Outgoing international calls can be made by dialing 00, followed by the country and city code and the number, or by ordering an operator-assisted call through dialing 107. There are some companies such as "Hyur Service" which is providing cellular phones (with cards) for rent, visit http://www.hyurservice.com/services_eng.html for more details.

Time Differences

Time difference between Armenia and Europe is +3 hours; with GB +4 hours: with East Coast of the US +9 hours and with the West Coast +12 hours. Armenia observes the clock changes for daylight savings.

Tipping

In Yerevan it is customary to give a "service charge/tip" of about 10% of the restaurant bill.

Visa

One can get visa in Zvartnots airport by 30-35\$ or by Internet at

<http://www.armeniaforeignministry.com/eVisa/>

The combined application processing and e-Visa fee is the equivalent of US \$60

Only credit card payments are accepted.