

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT ARMENIA FROM A to Z

Geographical Information

Armenia is located in the southern Caucasus, bordered by Georgia from the north, Azerbaijan from the east, Iran from the south and Turkey from the west. Contemporary Armenia has a territory of 29 800 square km, lying between 1000 and 2500 meters above sea level. The highest peak is mount Aragats (4090m), while the lowest point is Debed River Canyon (400m). Yerevan is the capital and the largest city of Armenia. According to the general census of 2003 the population of Armenia is 3,2 million, 1,1 million of which lives in the capital.

Climate and Temperature

Armenia is usually referred to as a sunny country. Its climate ranges from dry subtropical to cold. The summers are hot, the temperature fluctuates between +22C to +36C. The winters are short but cold, the temperature is between -15C to -1C. <http://www.meteo.am>
The mountain peaks are covered with eternal snow, while their slopes are lined by alpine meadows. The best time to visit Armenia is spring or autumn.

Banking

The Armenian banking system consists of 21 commercial banks, which are supervised by the Central Bank of Republic of Armenia. The banks in Yerevan are open from 10 am to 4 pm on week-days and from 10 am to 1 pm on Saturdays. No lunch breaks! The ATMs can be found on all the major streets.

Currency

Armenian national currency, the Dram, was introduced in November 1993. There are banknotes of 500, 1000, 5000, 20000, 50000 Dram denomination. There are also coins of 10, 50, 100, 200, 500 Dram denomination.

Foreign currency (USD, Euro, Canadian Dollar, Japanese Yen, Dutch Guilder, Russian Ruble, etc.) can be exchanged in banks and currency exchange offices throughout the country. The approximate exchange rate is:

Buying	Selling
1 USD – 305 AMD	1 USD – 309 AMD
1 EUR – 448 AMD	1 EUR – 456 AMD
1 RUB – 12,3 AMD	1 RUB – 12,7 AMD

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

Electricity

The electricity in Armenia is 220 volt, 50 Hz. Electric outlets in Armenia use European plugs with 2 round pins. The outlet plug adaptors can be purchased at any electronic shop in Yerevan.

Embassies, Consulates of Foreign Countries in RA

Canada (Honorary Consulate)	25/22, Demirchyan Str. Tel: 56 79 03
China	12, Baghramyan Ave. Tel: 56 00 67, 56 12 34. E-mail: chiemb@mbox.arminco.com
Egypt	6a, Sepouh Str. Tel: 22 67 55, 22 01 17, 27 82 13 E-mail: egyemb@arminco.com
France	8, Lusavorich Str. Tel: 56 11 03, 56 46 67, 58 35 11. E-mail: admin@ambafran.am .
Georgia	42, Arami Str. Tel: 58 55 11, 56 41 83. E-mail: georgia@arminco.com
Germany	29, Charents Str. Tel: 52 32 79, Consular Dept. 58 65 91, 52 45 81 E-mail: germemb@arminco.com
Greece	6, Demirchyan Str. Tel: 53 00 51, Consular Dept. 53 67 54. E-mail: grembarm@arminco.com
Italy	5, Italy Str. Tel: 54 23 35, 54 23 36. E-mail: ambitaly@arminco.com .
Iran	1, Budaghyan Str. Tel: 23 29 20, 23 49 83, Consular Dept. 23 49 00 E-mail: info@iranembassy.am .
Lebanon	1st St., 13/14 Dzoragiugh. Tel: 52 74 63, 54 24 37. E-mail: libarm@arminco.com
Russia	13a, Lusavorich Str. Tel: Consular Dept. 58 98 43, 56 74 27 E-mail: rossia@arminco.com .
Syria	14, Baghramyan Ave. Tel: Consular Dept. 52 40 28, 52 40 36. E-mail: syria.em.arm@netsys.am
Ukraine	29th St., 5/1 Arabkir. Tel: 22 97 27, 25 13 83 E-mail: ukremb@internet.am .
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	34, Baghramyan Ave. Tel: 26 43 01. E-mail: britemb@arminco.com
United States of America	1 Amerikian Ave. Tel: 46 47 00, 49 46 00 E-mail: usinfo@usa.am .

Flights

The main air-access to the country is through Zvartnots International airport in Yerevan, which is located about 15 km far from the city center.

There are regular flights to and from Yerevan organized by the following companies: Armenian International Airlines, Aeroflot Russian Airlines, Air France, Armavia, Austrian Airlines, British Airways, Czech Airlines, Lufthansa, etc. All these airlines offer connecting flights to every major city in the world.

Flights	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
London - Yerevan (British Airways)		17.00		17.30	17.35		16.00
Yerevan - London (British Airways)	11.20		09.20		10.40	09.05	
Tehran - Yerevan (Caspian Airlines)	20.00			10.30			
Yerevan - Tehran (Caspian Airlines)	22.30			13.00			
Tehran - Yerevan (Armavia)	02.20			02.20			
Yerevan - Tehran (Armavia)			23.20				23.20
Istanbul - Yerevan (Atlasjet Airlines)	23.30		23.30	23.30			
Yerevan - Istanbul (Atlasjet Airlines)		02.15		02.15	02.15		
Dubai - Yerevan (Armavia)					23.25		
Yerevan - Dubai (Armavia)		18.50			18.50		
Athens - Yerevan (Armavia)					14.30		
Yerevan - Athens (Armavia)					06.25		
Vienna - Yerevan (Austrian Airlines)	01.25		01.25		01.25	01.25	
Yerevan - Vienna (Austrian Airlines)	05.45		05.45		05.45	05.45	
Munich - Yerevan (Lufthansa)	00.15	00.15		00.15		00.15	
Yerevan - Munich (Lufthansa)	04.50	04.50		04.50		04.50	
Amsterdam - Yerevan (Armavia)			18.15				18.15

Yerevan - Amsterdam (Armavia)			08.10				08.10
Paris - Yerevan (Air France)	16.20		16.20		16.20		
Yerevan - Paris (Air France)		09.15		09.15		09.15	
Paris - Yerevan (Armavia)	15.10				15.10		
Yerevan - Paris (Armavia)	05.30				05.30		
Moscow - Yerevan (Aeroflot)	00.05 12.05	00.05 12.05	00.05 12.05	00.05 12.05	00.05 12.05	00.05 12.05	00.05 12.05
Yerevan - Moscow (Aeroflot)	07.10 16.20	07.10 16.20	07.10 16.20	07.10 16.20	07.10 16.20	07.10 16.20	07.10 16.20
Moscow - Yerevan (Siberian Airlines)	12.55	12.55	12.55	12.55	12.55	12.55	12.55
Yerevan - Moscow (Siberian Airlines)	17.05	17.05	17.05	17.05	17.05	17.05	17.05
Moscow - Yerevan (Armavia)	08.00 14.00 19.00	17.30 14.00 19.00	08.00 14.00 19.00 22.35	08.00 14.00 19.00 22.35	08.00 14.00 19.00 22.35	17.30 14.00 19.00	08.00 14.00 19.00 22.35
Yerevan - Moscow (Armavia)	02.15 09.45 14.35 18.10	02.15 09.45 14.35	02.15 09.45 14.35 17.00 18.10	02.15 09.45 14.35 18.10	02.15 09.45 14.35 18.10	02.15 09.45 14.35	02.15 09.45 14.35 18.10
Aleppo - Yerevan (Syrian Arab Airlines)					21.00		
Yerevan - Aleppo (Syrian Arab Airlines)					23.30		
Aleppo - Yerevan (Armavia)		02.35					
Yerevan - Aleppo (Armavia)	23.25						
Prague - Yerevan (Czech Airlines)		00.40		00.40		00.40	
Yerevan - Prague (Czech Airlines)		05.10		05.10		05.10	

Holidays

Armenians celebrate both public and religious holidays. The celebrations here are usually accompanied with joyful songs and traditional circle dances. Usually all stores are open on holidays and Saturdays. Most of the shops and supermarkets are open on Sundays, too.

Language

The official language is Armenian, a separate branch of Indo-European family. The written characters are very unique and are not similar to any other alphabets. However most of the shops and official buildings are also marked with Latin-letter signboards. Besides Armenian, nearly everyone speaks Russian here, and many can communicate in English, too.

Meals

The traditional Armenian cuisine has a large variety of richly flavored dishes. Fresh vegetable and meat is considered to be the most favorite food in Armenia. No Armenian celebratory table can be imagined without the most favorite barbecue, kyufta, dolma or ghapama. There is also a traditional dish called khash, which foresees a great ritual, starting from its preparatory process till the last moment at the table. The numerous restaurants in Yerevan offer authentic local food. There are also many restaurants serving the dishes of different world-known cuisines.

Post Office

The post offices in Armenia have regular working timetable from 9 am to 7 pm. Sunday is a day-off. One of the central post offices is located at the Republic Square opposite the Government building.

Public Transportation

The following means of public transportation are available in Armenia:

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 (\$0.11).

Buses: There are buses running in major directions. The fare is 70 AMD.

Minibuses: These small vans seating 12-15 people are available everywhere in the city. They run until late at night. The fare is 100 AMD (\$0,22).

Taxi Services: There are many taxi services, which accept orders by phone. They offer very clean, comfortable cars with polite and skillful drivers. The fare varies from 70 AMD (\$0.22) to 100 AMD (\$0.18) per km.

Regular taxi: There are taxi stands at major and busy intersections. Fares are subject to negotiation.

Religion

Armenians accepted Christianity as a state religion in 301 AD. The religion is deeply rooted in Armenia. Most ethnic Armenians belong to the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox church. The head of the church is the Catholicos of All Armenians, who resides in Holy Echmiadzin.

Telephone Calls

The country code is 374, Yerevan city code is 10.

Outgoing international calls can be made by dialing:

- 00 followed by the country, city code and the number
- 107 and ordering an operator-assisted call.

Cellular phones for rent can be obtained at the office of "Hyur Service". For more details click http://www.hyurservice.com/eng/services_eng.php.

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.

Visa

One can get a visa at the time of arrival in Yerevan, at the airport for \$30-35 or on the Internet at <http://www.armeniaforeignministry.com/eVisa/>. The combined application processing and e-Visa fee is \$60. Only credit card payments are accepted.