



Tailor-Made Itinerary – Florian



Custom Program

Day 1: Arrival in Yerevan

[DAY_IMAGE_01:Yerevan Center]

- **Morning:** Arrival at Zvartnots International Airport (Yerevan). Meet your dedicated driver-guide at arrivals. Private transfer (~30 min) to your hotel in central Yerevan. Early check-in arranged if possible.
- **Afternoon:** Leisurely orientation walk around Republic Square, Cascade Complex, and the Opera House (easy 2-hour stroll, suitable for all paces). Enjoy a coffee at a local café.
- **Evening:** Welcome dinner at a contemporary Armenian restaurant. Try local specialties such as khorovats (barbecue) and lavash bread.
- **Highlight:** Sunset views from the Cascade overlooking Mount Ararat.
- **Hotel options:**
 - **Alexander, a Luxury Collection Hotel** (5*, elegant rooms, spa, central location; sophisticated urban luxury with panoramic views, ~€220-300/night/double)
 - **Eco Guesthouse in Kond district** (boutique style, local charm; authentic neighborhood vibe in historic quarter, ~€80-120/night/room)

- **Green Hotel Yerevan** (eco-friendly, modern amenities; sustainable design with green rooftop terrace, ~€100-140/night/room)
- **[To Customize]:** Early check-in, dietary preferences, and any special arrival arrangements.

TIP: March weather in Yerevan can be cool (5-15°C); pack layers for evening walks.

Day 2: Yerevan & Echmiadzin

[DAY_IMAGE_02:Echmiadzin]

- **Morning:** Guided visit to the History Museum of Armenia (1.5h, central location). Private transfer (~30 min) to Echmiadzin, spiritual center of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Visit the UNESCO-listed Echmiadzin Cathedral and nearby churches (guided 2h tour).
- **Afternoon:** Return to Yerevan (~30 min). Visit Vernissage open-air market for local crafts and souvenirs. Optional stop at the Genocide Memorial & Museum (1-2h, reflective experience).
- **Evening:** Dinner at a wine bar featuring Armenian wines and tapas.
- **Highlight:** Private tour of Echmiadzin Cathedral with a local expert.
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 1.
- **[To Customize]:** Museum entry times, private guide for Echmiadzin.

Day 3: Garni & Geghard Monasteries

[DAY_IMAGE_03:Geghard Monastery]

- **Morning:** Private transfer (~45 min) to Garni Temple (the only Greco-Roman colonnaded building in the former Soviet Union, 1h guided visit). Continue (~15 min) to Geghard Monastery (UNESCO), carved into the cliffs (1.5h exploration).
- **Afternoon:** Lunch with a local family, lavash bread baking demonstration. Optional short hike in the Azat Gorge (easy, 1-2 hours, moderate paths).
- **Evening:** Return to Yerevan (~45 min). Free time for jazz clubs or casual dining.
- **Highlight:** Participating in traditional lavash bread making.
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 1.
- **[To Customize]:** Hiking route and difficulty, dietary restrictions for lunch.

TIP: Wear sturdy shoes for Geghard's uneven stone paths; bring water for the gorge hike.

Day 4: Khor Virap & Areni Wine Region

[DAY_IMAGE_04:Khor Virap]

- **Morning:** Private transfer (~1h) south to Khor Virap Monastery, famous for its views of Mount Ararat. Guided visit and photo stop (1.5h).
- **Afternoon:** Continue (~1h) to Areni wine region. Wine tasting at a boutique winery (2h, featuring local varieties like Areni red) and visit to Noravank Monastery (dramatic red cliffs, 1.5h guided).
- **Evening:** Wine pairing dinner with local cuisine. Overnight in a vineyard guesthouse or eco-lodge.
- **Highlight:** Sunset wine tasting overlooking the Areni valley.
- **Hotel options:**
 - **Old Bridge Winery Guesthouse** (vineyard setting, en-suite rooms; immersive wine estate with valley vistas, ~€110-150/night/room)
 - **Eco Lodge Areni** (sustainable, rustic charm; organic farm-to-table experiences, ~€80-120/night/room)
 - **Areni Wine House** (boutique, terrace views; cozy cellars and regional wines, ~€90-130/night/room)
- **[To Customize]:** Winery selection, wine preferences, dinner menu.

Day 5: Tatev Monastery Adventure

[DAY_IMAGE_05:Tatev Monastery]

- **Morning:** Private transfer (~2.5h with scenic stops) to Tatev. Ride the “Wings of Tatev” cable car (world’s longest reversible aerial tramway, 12 min, panoramic views) to the monastery.
- **Afternoon:** Guided exploration of Tatev Monastery (2h), lunch at a local restaurant. Optional short hike to Devil’s Bridge (easy, 1h, riverside path).
- **Evening:** Overnight at a guesthouse in Goris (traditional hospitality, local dinner).
- **Highlight:** Cable car journey with panoramic canyon views.
- **Hotel options:**
 - **Mina Hotel Goris** (boutique, garden; comfortable base with mountain backdrop, ~€80-110/night/room)
 - **Eco Guesthouse Goris** (family-run, local cuisine; warm hospitality and home-cooked meals, ~€60-90/night/room)
 - **Goris Palace Hotel** (modern, spacious rooms; convenient location near town center, ~€70-100/night/room)
- **[To Customize]:** Cable car schedule, hiking preferences.

TIP: Book cable car tickets in advance; March winds may affect schedules—check weather.

Day 6: Goris to Dilijan via Selim Pass

[DAY_IMAGE_06:Selim Pass]

- **Morning:** Scenic private transfer (~4h with stops) north via Selim Caravanserai (historic Silk Road site, 45 min visit) and Lake Sevan.
- **Afternoon:** Visit Noratus medieval cemetery (khachkars, 1h) and Sevanavank Monastery on Lake Sevan (1h, lakeside). Continue to Dilijan National Park ("Armenian Switzerland").
- **Evening:** Settle into an eco-lodge or boutique hotel in Dilijan. Dinner featuring wild herbs and forest flavors.
- **Highlight:** Lake Sevan's turquoise waters and Noratus khachkars (carved stones).
- **Hotel options:**
 - **Tufenkian Old Dilijan Complex** (historic, central; restored architecture blending tradition and comfort, ~€120-160/night/room)
 - **Dilijan Eco Resort** (forest setting, spa; nature immersion with wellness facilities, ~€140-180/night/room)
 - **Forest Inn Dilijan** (boutique, trails access; cozy retreats amid pines, ~€110-150/night/room)
- **[To Customize]:** Lunch stop location, spa treatments.

TIP: Long drive includes mountain passes; driver-guide handles any March snow delays.

Day 7: Dilijan & Haghartsin Monastery

[DAY_IMAGE_07:Haghartsin]

- **Morning:** Explore Dilijan's old town and artist studios (self-paced 2h). Short private transfer (~30 min) to Haghartsin Monastery, nestled in forested hills (1.5h visit).
- **Afternoon:** Optional hike in Dilijan National Park (easy/moderate trails, 2-3h, forested paths) or relax at the hotel spa.
- **Evening:** Dinner at a local bistro with live music.
- **Highlight:** Forest walk to Haghartsin and tea with local monks.
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 6.
- **[To Customize]:** Hiking duration and difficulty, cultural workshop options.

Day 8: Alaverdi & Debed Canyon

[DAY_IMAGE_08:Debed Canyon]

- **Morning:** Private transfer (~2h) to Alaverdi. Visit UNESCO-listed

Haghpat and Sanahin monasteries in Debed Canyon (guided 3h, iron bridge crossing).

- **Afternoon:** Lunch at a riverside guesthouse. Explore local villages or short walk in the canyon (easy 1h).
- **Evening:** Overnight in a guesthouse or eco-lodge in Debed Canyon (mountain views, homemade dinner).
- **Highlight:** Private visit to a local artisan's studio.
- **Hotel options:**
 - **Concept Hotel by COAF** (modern, eco; community-focused design with canyon vistas, ~€90-130/night/room)
 - **Debed Eco Lodge** (simple, scenic; authentic riverside stays with fresh meals, ~€70-100/night/room)
 - **Haghpat Guesthouse** (traditional, views; near monasteries with family hospitality, ~€60-90/night/room)
- **[To Customize]:** Artisan visit, dinner preferences.

Day 9: Lori to Gyumri

[DAY_IMAGE_09:Gyumri Old Town]

- **Morning:** Private transfer (~2h) to Gyumri, Armenia's second city, known for its 19th-century architecture and vibrant arts scene.
- **Afternoon:** Walking tour of Gyumri's historic center, museums, and

cafés (2h, flat terrain). Optional pottery workshop (1.5h, hands-on).

- **Evening:** Dinner in a traditional tavern with live folk music.
- **Highlight:** Immersive arts and crafts experience.
- **Hotel options:**
 - **Villa Kars** (boutique, central; elegant heritage building with courtyard, ~€80-120/night/room)
 - **Gyumri Loft Guesthouse** (modern, artistic; creative spaces in restored lofts, ~€70-90/night/room)
 - **Sheyan Guesthouse** (cozy, local vibe; artistic neighborhood feel, ~€60-85/night/room)
- **[To Customize]:** Workshop booking, dinner reservations.

Day 10: Return to Yerevan via Amberd Fortress

[DAY_IMAGE_10:Amberd Fortress]

- **Morning:** Scenic private transfer (~2.5h) back to Yerevan, detour to Amberd Fortress on the slopes of Mount Aragats (1h visit, 2300m altitude).
- **Afternoon:** Explore Amberd (fortress ruins, panoramic views), picnic lunch. Return to Yerevan for relaxed afternoon (shopping, galleries, or spa).
- **Evening:** Farewell dinner at a rooftop restaurant overlooking the city.

- **Highlight:** Amberd's panoramic views and fortress ruins.
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 1.
- **[To Customize]:** Picnic arrangements, spa bookings.

ALTITUDE: Amberd at ~2300m; stay hydrated, take it slow if sensitive—minimal risk for day visit.

Day 11: Yerevan Free Day

[DAY_IMAGE_11:Yerevan Vernissage]

- **Morning:** Free time for shopping, museums, or café hopping.
Optional guided street art tour (2h).
- **Afternoon:** Flexible: visit the Matenadaran manuscript museum (1.5h) or relax at leisure.
- **Evening:** Optional wine tasting or casual dinner with locals.
- **Highlight:** Discovering hidden corners of Yerevan at your own pace.
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 1.
- **[To Customize]:** Additional experiences based on group interests.

TIP: Use this flexible day for group downtime or spontaneous discoveries like local markets.

Day 12: Departure

[DAY_IMAGE_12:Yerevan Airport]

- **Morning:** Private transfer to Zvartnots International Airport (~30 min, with buffer for check-in). Assistance with check-out and departure formalities.
- **Afternoon:** Departure flight (timing TBD).
- **Evening:** —
- **Highlight:** Fond farewell to Armenia with lasting memories.
- **Hotel options:** —
- **[To Customize]:** Flight details and transfer timing.

✦ Customizable Options

- Private culinary masterclass with a local chef
- Helicopter scenic flight over Mount Ararat (weather permitting)
- Exclusive wine blending session in Areni
- Wellness spa day in Dilijan or Yerevan
- Day trip to Lake Parz with kayaking or forest picnic
- Contemporary art gallery tour with a curator in Yerevan

✦ Alternative Options

- **Alternative Option 1: Slower Pace** – Add extra nights in Dilijan or

Areni for more relaxation and deeper local immersion.

- **Alternative Option 2: More Active** – Incorporate additional hiking days in Dilijan National Park and the Debed Canyon.
- **Alternative Option 3: Focus on Luxury** – Upgrade to 5* hotels throughout, with private spa treatments and gourmet experiences.

✦ Practical Info & Budget

Item	Estimated Cost (per person)
Accommodation (11 nights, double/twin share)	€800-1400
Private driver-guide & vehicle (12 days, group of 5)	€350-450
Meals (breakfasts included, lunches/dinners à la carte)	€250-400
Experiences, entries & activities	€200-350
Transfers & cable car	€100-150
Total Estimated Cost	€1900-2400

- **Seasonality:** March is early spring; expect cool weather (5–15°C), possible rain, and snow in higher regions. Some mountain roads may have weather-related delays—your driver-guide will adapt as needed.

- **Comfort level:** Mix of luxury hotels, eco-lodges, and boutique guesthouses, all vetted for quality and authenticity.
- **Included:** Accommodation, private driver-guide, most breakfasts, select dinners, guided experiences, all transfers.
- **Excluded:** International flights, some lunches/dinners, personal expenses, tips, travel insurance.
- **Visa:** Most EU/US citizens can enter Armenia visa-free for up to 180 days; check current regulations before travel.
- **Health & Safety:** No major health risks; standard travel precautions recommended. Weather can be variable in March—pack layers and waterproofs.
- Partner verification and availability check recommended for final booking.