

## Churches - Monasteries - Cognac and Caravanserais (M-ID: 2641)

<https://www.motourismo.com/en/listings/2641-churches-monasteries-cognac-and-caravanserais>



**from €2,290.00**

Dates and duration (days)

On request

10 days

**On the round trip churches - monasteries - cognac and caravanserais we experience fascinating testimonies of a millennia-old culture, embedded in an overwhelming natural landscape between Stepanavan in the north to Stepanakert in the south-east in Nagorno Karabakh.**

Armenia is considered the first Christian state (since 301). In the many centuries of foreign rule, the Christian religion always remained identity-forming for the Armenians, which is shown in the multitude of preserved churches and monasteries. In Aparan, for example, there is the Basilica of Khasakh from the 4th century, or high above the Debed Gorge the two impressive monasteries of Sanahin and Haghpat, which are also UNESCO World Heritage Sites. In between you will ride over winding passes (up to 2700m), to the highest and most water-rich waterfall, the Trchkan waterfall, along numerous gorges such as the one of Lori, which is a magic land in Armenian fairy tales, or to the city of the caravanserais Ijewan or Dilidschan, the Davos of the Caucasus.

Passing Lake Sevan we walk in the footsteps of the Apostle Jude Thaddeus to Dadivank. The monastery of Dadivank, founded in the 1st century and named after a disciple of the apostle, has a magical aura, while the monastery of Gandzasar, not far from it, is an outstanding example of architecture and stonemasonry.

Around Goris in southern Armenia there are numerous cave dwellings and at Sisian lies one of Armenia's largest and oldest prehistoric cult sites. Next are ancient caravanserais and the kachkars, those cross stones found throughout the country that are as typical of Armenia as the duduk, Armenia's national instrument, or lavash, the paper-thin bread.

At the time of the Soviet Union, Armenia was also a Soviet republic and unfortunately hidden behind the Iron Curtain for Western tourists. Since independence and the Velvet Revolution, Armenia has been a very up-and-coming country and is looking forward to being discovered by long-

distance travellers and motorcyclists. This means we still have the lonely roads and sights largely to ourselves. Therefore a tip for all those who want to avoid the beaten track and discover new territory - churches - monasteries - cognac and caravanserais.

Oh yes, the cognac, which is of course the biggest export hit for Armenia, like the many other K's (cross stones, khachkars, monasteries, etc.) even if it is not yet included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. But it was already ennobled by Winston Churchill at the Yalta Conference.

Tour description:

Day 1: Arrival from home country

Day 2: Yerevan / Ani Pemsä / Gyumri  
150km asphalt | In Ani Pemsä lies one of the most important and largest early Christian buildings in Armenia, the Basilica of Jererukh, 5th century. Gyumri, beautiful old town houses with colorful facades and graceful wooden balconies.

Day 3: Gyumri / Arthik / Aparan / Shirakamut / Trchkan waterfall / Stepanavan / Odzun  
120 km asphalt, 50 km offroad | Arthik, Bronze Age settlements. In Aparan there is one of the oldest sacral buildings in Armenia, the Basilica of Khasakh from the 4th century and a nationally famous bakery, because of its good bread and oven-fresh pastries.

After Shirakamut, the off-road route begins to one of the most popular sights in Armenia, the highest and most

watery waterfall in the country, the Trchkan Waterfall UNESCO World Heritage Site. High above the Wolfsberg Gorge lies beautifully situated Odzun with its large 6th century cathedral.

Day 4: Odzun / Sanahin / Haghpata / Ijevan  
165km asphalt, 15km offroad | Sanahin and Haghpata, both impressive monasteries, situated high above the Debed Gorge and UNESCO World Heritage Site Ijevan, city of caravanserais.

Day 5: Ijevan / Navur / Karmir / Gosh / Lake Parz / Dilijan  
150km asphalt, 75km offroad | Via gravel road to Navur and Karmir in the mountains. Village Gosh, with monastery complex Goshavank, founded by the famous Armenian scholar and poet Mkhithar Gosh, 12th c. Lake Parz, clear mountain lake in the nature park of Dilijan. The climatic health resort Dilijan in the nature park of the same name with summer houses of Dimitri Shostakovich and Benjamin Britten.

Day 6: Dilijan / Qarvachar / Dadivank / Stepanakert  
320km asphalt, 30km offroad | Over Sevan Pass, along Sevan Lake to Qarvachar in Karabakh. Dadivank, founded at the end of the 1st century and named after a disciple of the apostle Judas Thaddeus. While Dadivank has a magical aura, Gandzasar is an outstanding example of 10th century architecture and stonemasonry.

Day 7: Stepanakert / Tigranakert / Chinari / Hadrut / Togh village  
130km asphalt, 15km offroad | Ruins of the city of Tigranakert from the Hellenistic period, 1st century BC  
Tschinari tree, very famous and 1000 years old.

Day 8: Togh village / Goris / Sisian / Karahunge / Yeghegnadzor  
270km asphalt | Beautiful mountain road to Goris. At the river Goris are peculiar sandstone stelae, which were inhabited until the 19th century.

Not far from Sisian, in Karahunge lies one of the largest and oldest prehistoric cult sites in Armenia, a Bronze Age burial ground with ancient settlement and prehistoric star observatory.

Day 9: Yeghegnadzor / Vartneyants Pass / Noraduz / Sevan / Yerevan  
130km asphalt | Just below Vartneyants Pass (2410m) one of the few remaining caravanserais from the great times of the legendary Silk Road and Marco Polo.

Shortly before we arrive back in Yerevan and this journey of discovery comes to an end, we visit a field of khachkars near Noraduz, those cross stones that are as typical for Armenia as the duduk, the Armenian national instrument, or the lavash, the paper-thin bread that is baked in a clay oven embedded in the earth.

Day 10: Journey home  
2915km Offroad / Air | After all the experiences and the warmth of the Armenian hospitality it will not be easy for some to start their journey home.

Countries	Armenia
Category	Motorcycle Tour
Terrain	Onroad
Vehicle	motorcycle rent incl.
Tourguide / Coach	yes (guided)
Accommodation	Hotel / B&B or similar
	4 star hotel
Flight to / from	no, not incl.
	on request
Ferry	no, not incl.
Support vehicle (luggage/service)	yes
Level of difficulty	easy
Customer payment protection	yes
* PRICING	Minimal without optional extras, see pricing

## Pricing

per rider in a double room: Yamaha XT660 R (the booking of a double room is only available for a booking of two people. All single travelers are asked to choose the single room surcharge.)	€2,290.00
per rider in double room: Kawasaki KLR650 (the booking of a double room is only available for a booking of two people. All single travelers are asked to choose the single room surcharge.)	€2,290.00
per rider in a double room: Suzuki V-Strom 650 (the booking of a double room is only available for a booking of two people. All single travelers are asked to choose the single room surcharge.)	€2,430.00
per rider in a double room: Honda Africa Twin (the booking of a double room is only available for a booking of two people. All single travelers are asked to choose the single room surcharge.)	€2,560.00
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per partner in a double room	€1,690.00
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per person single room (surcharge) - (surcharge, only available with an additional selection of the basic price "per rider in shared twin/double room")	€200.00

## Included

Airport transfers

Escort vehicle for pillions and luggage

Tour guide german/english with motorbike

Rental motorcycle  
Complete motorcycle insurance (exclusive 250€ deductible)  
Unlimited mileage  
Accommodation in 4 star hotel - breakfast and dinner included  
Lunch on the way  
1 bottle of water per person per day  
Travel insurance certificate

## **Not included**

Flight to Armenia and back  
Gasoline for the tour  
Helmets and rider equipment  
Travel insurance  
Alcoholic beverages with dinner. Portage and tips  
Everything that is not specified under features

## **More details**

Tour start: Yerevan ARM

End of tour: Yerevan ARM

Participants: Minimum number of participants 5 riders, maximum number of participants 8 riders If the minimum number of participants is not reached by the registration deadline, the tour may be cancelled. In case of later registrations we are happy to ask for free hotel rooms.

Accommodation: Four star hotel

Region: Armenia

Duration: 10 days

Riding distance. approx. 1500km

Roads: For the most part, the roads are in passable condition. However, there are gravel road sections to various places of interest. For this reason, enduros are used.

Motorcycles: There are 4 different types available, but only in a limited number, see REGISTRATION / MOTORBIKES. If you book early, you have free choice of motorcycle.

Passenger: Pillion and Enduro? Yes, is possible in 2 ways:

1. there are limited seats available in the escort vehicle for your travel companion. Early booking recommended!

2. on the motorcycle it is conditionally also possible. Here, however, it depends very much on your height and weight and whether you have experience in it. In this case, the Suzuki V-Strom 650 or the Honda Africa Twin are certainly recommended.

Route:

Round trip: start and finish the same

Road condition: 90% asphalt (leads only over predominantly well asphalted roads); 10% Gravel (are not asphalted roads and ways, which are leveled, often very well to ride, but also sand passages, gravel distances, "corrugated iron" and Potholes can have)

Difficulty rate: 1 (out of 5) The entire route runs on well-maintained asphalt roads, some of which are winding but mostly easy.

Experience: Some experience on unpaved roads / off road required.

We are also happy to arrange flights and hotel rooms for you from arrival to the start of the tour, or from the end of the tour to departure. Please inquire.