

Those with dual citizenship, who have previously served in another country's military for a minimum of 12 months before obtaining Armenian citizenship, are generally exempted from doing so in the RA. Exemptions may also be provided based on education or family status, temporary health conditions, and by the decision of the presiding government. Failing to complete military service in Armenia leaves you open to criminal charges by the government.

According to the ammendment to the RA Law "On Military Service and the Status of a Serviceman" male citizens aged 27 to 37 are subject to compulsory military service as of February 12, 2024. You can learn more about the ammendment [here](#).



## DAY-TO-DAY LIFE



### ▶ LOCAL LIFESTYLE

It may seem odd at first, but there are things you will have to get used to when living in Armenia.

- ▶ Local cuisine is heavily influenced by foreign cuisines, especially Middle Eastern.
- ▶ People cook daily in Armenia, for the most part. Leftovers might be reheated for breakfast the next morning. Breakfasts are usually simple and generally include honey, jam, bread, eggs, and coffee or tea. It's the dinner table that is most lavish, especially when guests have been invited or there's a special occasion. Local staples include a lot of rice, buckwheat, lentils, pasta, and potatoes.
- ▶ Seasonal foods are how people plan their menus here. When spring arrives, expect an abundance of leafy greens. With the onset of summer, tables are filled to the brim with fruits of all types. During each fruit's peak month, jams and compotes are cooked and set aside for winter. Vegetables are pickled all summer long. As August approaches, so does grape season, and when fall arrives, expect apples and pears and quinces. Locals know when it's the best time to buy certain foods. Talk to them and you will enjoy it all throughout the year. Don't forget to chop everything that's in season and store in your freezer! Might need a large one, just for your winter stash.
- ▶ You will be fed a lot more carbs and a lot less protein than you're used to. Meat is expensive and generally saved for special occasions. Expect a lot more salt, butter, sugar, and plain fat to be used.
- ▶ You won't find a separate laundry room in most houses in Armenia. Most only have a washing machine, which is located either in the kitchen or the bathroom. Few people take their laundry to dry cleaning and laundromats don't really exist.
- ▶ Armenians like imported items. It's a fact that has roots in Soviet society. Certain children's brands are a dime a dozen now, such as Bubchen and Johnson & Johnson. Certain Turkish brands are also very common, though mostly in textiles. American, German, and French brands, especially, are highly regarded among the local populace. Many people order from platforms like *Amazon*, *ebay*, *Wildberries*, *Aliexpress*, *Temu*, *etc.* Orders can be delivered by *HayPost*, *Globbering* or *Onex*.

### ▶ SEASONAL FRUITS

If you want to figure out when to buy the freshest fruits in Armenia, and a summer harvest is simply too delicious to pass up, keep this chart in mind. It is normal for vendors to let you taste their wares before you buy, as well. Most fruits are offered as such to entice customers.