

Armenian calendar

The **Armenian calendar** is the calendar traditionally used in Armenia, primarily during the medieval ages.

The Armenian calendar is based on an invariant year length of 365 days. Because a solar day is about 365.25 days and not 365 days, the correspondence between it and both the solar year and the Julian calendar slowly drifted over time, shifting across a year of the Julian calendar once in 1,461 calendar years (see Sothic cycle). Thus, the Armenian year 1461 (Gregorian & Julian 2011) completed the first Sothic cycle, and the Armenian Calendar was one year off.

In A.D. 352, tables compiled by Andreas of Byzantium were introduced in Armenia to determine the religious holidays. When those tables exhausted on 11 July 552 (Julian Calendar), the Armenian calendar was introduced.^[1]

Year 1 of the Armenian calendar began on 11 July 552 of the Julian calendar.^[1] Armenian year 1462 (the first year of the second cycle) began on 11 July 2012 of the Julian calendar (24 July 2012 of the Gregorian calendar).

An analytical expression of the Armenian date includes the ancient names of days of the week, Christian names of the days of the week, days of the month, Date/Month/Year number after 552 A.D., and the religious feasts.^[2]

The Armenian calendar is divided into 12 months of 30 days each, plus an additional (epagomenal) five days, called *aweleac*՝ ("superfluous").

Years in the Armenian era are usually given in Armenian numerals (written in Armenian letters) preceded by the abbreviation թՎ, for *t'vin* (թուիս, meaning "in the year"). For example, թՎ ՌՆԾԵ, which means "the year 1455." Another prefix is թ.Հ., standing for *t'vin Hayoc*՝ (թուիս Հայոց "in the Armenian year").^[3]

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Months

The Armenian month names show influence of the Zoroastrian calendar^[4] and Kartvelian influence in two cases (2nd and 3rd months). There are different systems for transliterating the names; the forms below are transliterated according to the Hübschmann-Meillet-Benveniste system:

Months of the year				
#	Armenian	H-M Romaniz.	Meaning	Etymology/Notes
1	նաւասարդ	nawasard	new year	<u>Avestan</u> *nava sarəḏa
2	հոռի	hoři	two	From <u>Georgian</u> ორი (ori) meaning "two"
3	սահմի	sahmi	three	From <u>Georgian</u> სამი (sami) meaning "three"
4	տրե	trē		<u>Zoroastrian</u> Tir
5	քաղոց	kʼalocʼ	month of crops	From Old Armenian քաղել (kʼalē) meaning "to gather" from <u>PIE</u> *kʷj-
6	արաց	aracʼ	harvest-time	From old armenian արաց ^[5] (arac ʾ), meaning harvest time, harvest of grape/fruit
7	մեհեկան	mehekan	festival of Mithra	<u>Iranian</u> *mihrakān-; <u>Zoroastrian</u> Mitrō
8	արեգ	areg	sun month	From Old Armenian արել (arew) meaning "sun" from <u>PIE</u> *h₂rew-i- also meaning sun
9	ահեկան	ahekan	fire festival	<u>Iranian</u> *āhrakān-; <u>Zoroastrian</u> Ātarō
10	մարերի	mareri	mid-year	<u>Avestan</u> maiḍyāīrya; <u>Zoroastrian</u> Dīn
11	մարգաց	margacʼ		
12	հրոսից	hroticʼ		<u>Pahlavi</u> *fravartakān; <u>Zoroastrian</u> Spendarmat
13	աւելեաց ^[6]	aweleacʼ	redundant, superfluous	<u>Epagomenal days</u>

Days of the month

The Armenian calendar gives the days of the month names instead of numbering them – something also found in the Avestan calendars.

Zoroastrian influence is evident in five names:^[4]

Days of the month

#	Name	Armenian Text	Meaning/derivation
1	<i>Areg</i>	Արեկ	sun
2	<i>Hrand</i>	Հրանդ	earth mixed with fire
3	<i>Aram</i>	Արամ	
4	<i>Margar</i>	Մարգար	prophet
5	<i>Ahrank'</i>	Ահրանկ	half-burned
6	<i>Mazdeł</i>		
7	<i>Astlik</i>	Աստղիկ	<u>Astlik</u>
8	<i>Mihr</i>	Միհր	<u>Mihr (Armenian deity)</u>
9	<i>Jopaber</i>		tumultuous
10	<i>Murç</i>	Մուրց	triumph
11	<i>Erezhan</i>		hermit
12	<i>Ani</i>	Անի	name of a city
13	<i>Parkhar</i>		
14	<i>Vanat</i>	Վանատ	host, refectioner of a monastery
15	<i>Aramazd</i>	Արամազդ	<u>Aramazd</u>
16	<i>Mani</i>	Մանի	beginning
17	<i>Asak</i>	Ասակ	beginningless
18	<i>Masis</i>	Մասիս	<u>Mount Ararat</u>
19	<i>Anahit</i>	Անահիտ	<u>Anahit (Armenian goddess)</u>
20	<i>Aragats</i>	Արագած	<u>Mount Aragats</u>
21	<i>Gorgor</i>		Name of a mountain
22	<i>Kordvik</i>		6th province in <u>Armenia Major</u>
23	<i>Tsmak</i>	Ծմակ	east wind
24	<i>Lusnak</i>	Լուսնակ	half-moon
25	<i>Tsrōn</i>		dispersion
26	<i>Npat</i>	Նպատ	<u>Apam Napat</u>
27	<i>Vahagn</i>	Վահագն	Zoroastrian <i>Vahrām</i> ; Avestan <u>Verethragna</u> , name of the 20th day
28	<i>Sim</i>	Սիմ	mountain
29	<i>Varag</i>	Վարագ	name of a mountain
30	<i>Gišeravar</i>		evening star

Holidays

Per Armenian law, 12 days are declared as non-working days. Non-working days include:

Date	English Name	Local Name	Remarks
1-2 January	<u>New Year's Day</u>	Ամանոր	Tradition
6 January	<u>Christmas Day</u>	Սուրբ Ծնունդ	Based on the calendar used in <u>Armenian Apostolic Church</u>
28 January	<u>Army Day</u>	Բանակի օր	In celebration of <u>Armenian Army</u> formation on that day in 1992
8 March	<u>Women's Day</u>	Կանանց տոն	Women's Day
24 April	<u>Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day</u>	Եղեռնի զոհերի հիշատակի օր	Remembrance of victims of <u>Armenian genocide</u> in 1915
1 May	<u>Labour Day</u>	Աշխատանքի օր	<u>International Workers' Day</u>
9 May	<u>Victory and Peace Day</u>	Հաղթանակի եւ հաղադրւելու տոն	<p><u>Shushi Liberation Day</u> - on May 8, 1992 Armenian forces freed the city from Azerbaijani military forces, marking an important milestone in Artsakh liberation war for Armenians.</p> <p>Victory Day : 9 May (<u>World War II</u>) was a holiday throughout the USSR and is still an official holiday in Armenia.</p>
28 May	<u>Republic Day</u>	Հանրապետության օր	Establishment of the <u>Democratic Republic of Armenia</u> in 1918
5 July	<u>Constitution Day</u>	Սահմանադրության օր	<u>Adopted</u> in 1995
21 September	<u>Independence Day</u>	Անկախության օր	Independence from the <u>Soviet Union</u> in 1991
31 December	<u>New Year's Eve</u>	Ամանոր	

See also

- Public holidays in Armenia
- Armenian numerals
- Calendar of Saints (Armenian Apostolic Church)
- Tabarian calendar
- Georgian calendar
- Iranian calendar
- Zoroastrian calendar
- hy:Հայկյան տոմար

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2. Armenian calendar for 2021 (http://www.epistemeacademy.org/calendars/yearly_calendar.html?year1=2021&vADBC=AD&CCode=Armenian&day=1)

3. Harutyunyan, Khachik (2020). "Armenian Inscriptions of the Church of Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Part 1. The Chapel of John the Evangelist and Its Inscriptions" (https://academia.edu/43569545/Armenian_Inscriptions_of_the_Church_of_Holy_Sepulchre_in_Jerusalem_Part_1_The_Chapel_of_John_the_Evangelist_and_Its_Inscriptions_VEM_2020_2_70_pp_159-177_in_Armenian_). *VEM* (in Armenian). 12 (2): 165. "Թ.(ՌԻԽԵ) Հ.(ԱՅՈՅ)"
4. L. H. Gray, "On Certain Persian and Armenian Month- Names as Influenced by the Avesta Calendar," *JAOS* 28 (1907), 339.
5. "արաց - Wiktionary" (<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%A1%D6%81#Armenian>). *en.wiktionary.org*. Retrieved 2018-10-31.
6. "Hin Haykakan Tomar" (<http://haytomar.com/calendar.php?l=am>). *haytomar.com*.

External links

- The Haik calendar (http://www.tacentral.com/astronomy.asp?story_no=3) (Origin of the Armenian calendar).
- Armenian/Gregorian date converter (http://www.epistemeacademy.org/calendars/yearly_calendar.html?cyear=2020&vADBC=AD&CCode=Armenian&day=1)

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- K'. K'ek'eliġe, "Jveli kartuli c'elic'adi" ("The Old Georgian year"), in: *St'alini saxelobis Tbilisi Saxelmc'ipo Universit'et'is šromebi* ("Working papers of the Tbilisi State University by the name of Stalin") 18, 1941, reprinted in the author's "Et'iudebi jveli kartuli lit'era'turis ist'oriidan" ("Studies in the history of Old Georgian literature") 1, 1956, pp. 99–124.

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