

Armenia

Continent: Asia

Languages Spoken: Armenian

Population: 2,900,000

Currency: Armenian dram (AMD)

Area: 29,743

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Geghard Monastery', 'writeup': 'A UNESCO World Heritage site, partially carved out of the adjacent mountain, known for its medieval Armenian architecture.'}
- {'name': 'Garni Temple', 'writeup': 'A first-century pagan temple, the only Greco-Roman colonnaded building in the former Soviet Union.'}
- {'name': 'Khor Virap Monastery', 'writeup': 'Famous for its location near Mount Ararat and its historical significance in Armenian Christianity.'}
- {'name': 'Republic Square', 'writeup': 'The central town square in Yerevan, known for its distinctive Soviet-era architecture and musical fountains.'}
- {'name': 'Lake Sevan', 'writeup': 'One of the largest freshwater high-altitude lakes in the world, popular for recreation and natural beauty.'}

Head of State / Government:

Vahagn Khachaturyan (President as of 2024)

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Vardavar', 'writeup': 'An ancient Armenian festival where people splash water on each other, celebrated in summer with roots in pagan traditions.'}
- {'name': 'Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day', 'writeup': 'Observed on April 24 to commemorate the victims of the 1915 Armenian Genocide.'}
- {'name': 'Yerevan Wine Days', 'writeup': 'An annual festival celebrating Armenia's ancient winemaking heritage with tastings and cultural events.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Armenian cuisine features rich flavors with staples like lavash bread, khorovats (barbecue), dolma (stuffed grape leaves), and a variety of fresh herbs, nuts, and dried fruits reflecting its agricultural heritage.

Brief History:

Armenia is one of the world's oldest civilizations, first adopting Christianity as a state religion in 301 AD. It has a rich history marked by periods of independence and foreign domination, including Persian, Ottoman, and Soviet rule, regaining independence in 1991.

Important People:

- Mesrop Mashtots - Creator of the Armenian alphabet
- Aram Khachaturian - Renowned composer

- Serj Tankian - Musician and activist
- Charles Aznavour - Famous French-Armenian singer
- Levon Ter-Petrosyan - First President of modern Armenia

Current Conflicts:

Ongoing tensions and periodic clashes with Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region remain a significant security issue.

Youtube Links:

- Discover Armenia: The Land of Ancient Culture and Stunning Landscapes
- Armenia Travel Guide - Top Places to Visit
- History of Armenia - From Ancient Times to Modern Day
- Armenian Cuisine Explained: Traditional Dishes and Recipes
- Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict Explained