

2. Armenia



A. Introduction

The Asian Highway routes link Armenia to Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Roads are the predominant mode of transport. The railway is not well developed because of difficult mountainous terrain. The World Bank is assisting the country with road rehabilitation and upgrading.

Major cities include Yerevan, Gumri (Leninakan), Vanadzor (Kirovakan), and St. Etchmiadzin. Major bodies of water are Lake Sevan and the Araks and Razdan rivers.

Country Profile	
Capital	Yerevan
Area	29,800 sq km
Population	3,799,000 (2003)
Urban Population	67 per cent
GDP	US\$ 2.51 billion (2003)
GDP per Capita	US\$ 662 (2003)
Currency	Dram (AMD)
Total Length of Roads	15,918 (2000)
Asian Highway route length	958 km
Number of Motor Vehicles	5,760 (1996)



Industrial products include chemicals, metals, electrical equipment and machinery. Grapes, cotton, and tobacco are major agricultural products, and food-processing, wine-making, fishing and mining of copper, molybdenum, zinc, lead, iron, and other ores are important to the economy.

In addition to the Armenian majority, there are Azeri, Russian, and Kurdish minorities. The official language is Armenian.

B. Asian Highway in Armenia



AH81 Near Yerevan



AH81 Ashtarak to the North

Status of the Asian Highway in Armenia

Route No.	Itinerary	Length (km)	Paved (km)	
			2 Lanes or more	1 Lane
AH81	Bagratashen – Vanadjor – Ashtarak – Yerevan – Eraskh Agarak – Meghri – Border of Azerubaijan	337	337	
AH82	Bavra – Gumri (– Akurik) – Ashtarak – Yerevan – Eraskh – Meghri – Goris – Kaspan – Agarak – Border of Iran	463	463	
AH83	Paravakar – Yerevan	158	158	
Total		958	958	
Percentage		100	100	

C. Tourism spots along the Asian Highway

Lake Sevan (AH83)

Lake Sevan is the world’s largest alpine lake and the biggest water reservoir in Armenia. The fresh mountain air makes it an ideal place for rest and travel. Two historic churches, founded in 874, are located on islands in the lake.



Gumri (AH82)

Gumri, located 126 km from Yerevan on the bank of Akhourian River, is claimed to be one of the oldest cities in the world. Acacia, maple, ash and other trees grow in the surrounding valleys. There are numerous volcanic springs in the area.

D. Sample itinerary

1. Arrive in the *Asian Highway* city of Yerevan.
2. Tour Erebuni Museum to see fine artifacts from the fortress Erebuni, and Tsitsernakaberd, with its eternal flame. Visit Garni, Geghard and Vernisage, the open market of souvenirs.
3. Drive along the *Asian Highway* (AH81) to Ashtarak to see wonderful churches and monasteries dating back to the 15th and 16th centuries. Also visit the village of Oshagan.
4. Travel the *Asian Highway* (AH83) to Lake Sevan and Noraduz, visiting churches along the way.
5. Drive back to Yerevan.
6. Depart Yerevan.

E. Government Department responsible for Asian Highway Network

Planning and Economic Analysis, Department of “Armenian Highways” SSSC, 28 Nalbandyan Street, Yerevan, Armenia. Tel: (374-1) 582 104; Fax: (374-1) 560 715/151 446.

F. Useful Contacts for travel and tourism information

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