

# ***VOLUNTEERING IN ARMENIA***

**Discover Armenia trough volunteering**



**HUJ**

*Voluntary Service  
of Armenia*



# ABOUT ARMENIA

## Bari Galoust in Armenia

### BARI GALOUST MEANS WELCOME IN ARMENIA

First of all we are very happy that you are interested in our volunteering projects in Armenia. In this booklet we will provide you with the information you might need to know before you're coming to Armenia. This page will give you some brief facts about Armenia. In the next pages you will find information about the geography, culture, health and safety, and transport in Armenia. Also we will give you some tips what you can do in your leisure time and we will tell you about the HUJ organization and what it's like to have your volunteering time in Armenia.

### THE COAT OF ARMS OF ARMENIA

Below you will see the Coat of Arms of Armenia. In the centre of the shield you will see Mount Ararat with Noahs Ark on top of it. The story goes that the ark rested on the biblical Ararat Mountain after the great flood. Ararat is also considered as the national symbol of Armenia and with good weather you have great sight on the mountain from Yerevan.

Surrounding Mount Ararat are the symbols of the old Armenian dynasties. The shield is holded by the eagle and the lion. The colors of the Coat of Arms are red, blue and orange that are referring to the Armenian flag.



# Brief facts

## POPULATION

3,1 mln (as of 2010). Main ethnical groups: Armenians(94 %), Russians, Greeks, Kurds, Assyrians, Yazidi, Jews, Georgians, Polish, etc.

## RELIGION

Apostolic Christianity  
Armenia was the first country that adopted Christianity as a state religion in 301

## START LANGUAGE

Armenian (Indo-European language family)  
Most of inhabitants also speak Russian and in paticular younger people also speak English

## TIME ZONE

GMT + 4/ NB: We do not have time shifts in autumn/summer

## CAPITAL

Yerevan, founded in 782 B.C.

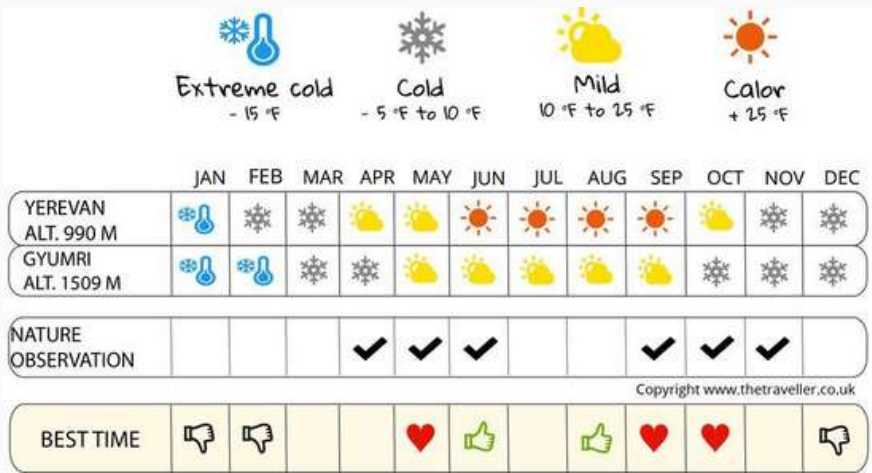
## CURRENCY

Armenian Dram (AMD).  
Up-to-date exchange rate is available on <http://www.cba.am>  
The approximate exchange rate is (for reference only!):  
1 EUR = 540-560 AMD  
depends on course



## Climate and weather

In Armenia there is a continental climate. The winters are cold and the summers are hot. Due to the many mountains in the country, only a small portion of its territory is located below 1.000 meters above sea level. The climate in higher parts is colder and wetter (and snowy in the winter as well), while at lower parts the rains are scarce and the summer is very hot.



What our long-term volunteers are saying....

"There are only two types of weather, either you can see the Ararat or you can't

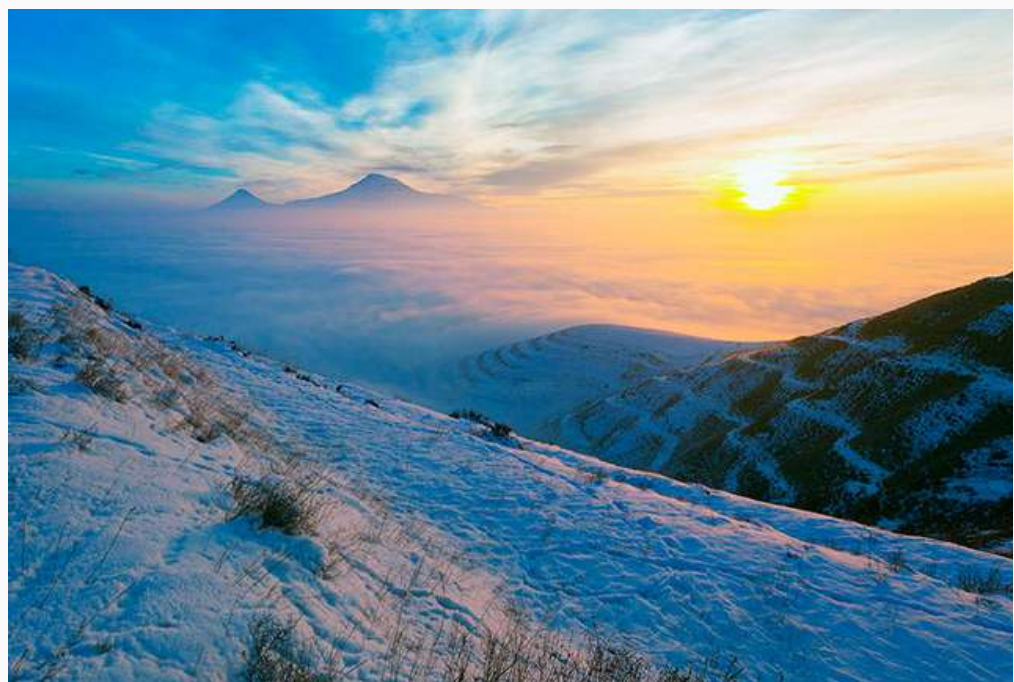
RAJA

"Throughout the year you will find at least one season that you will love and one that you hate with all your heart."

RICHARD

"It's cold but hot"

EVGENII





## Holidays

Armenia has a set of public, religious holidays and days of memory to be respected and considered as non-working days. Additionally, the volunteer gets 2 holiday days for each month of their service.



1 January	New Years Day
6 January	Christmas Day
8 March	International Womens Day
24 April	Genocide Remembrance Day
1 May	International Workers Day
9 May	Victory and peace Day
28 May	First Republic Day
5 July	Constitution Day
21 September	Indipendence Day
31 December	New Years Eve

## Health and safety

### GENERAL SAFETY

Armenia is a save country to visit. However, you are advised to observe the same precautions with your personal safety and possessions as you would in any other country or at home.

### VACCINATIONS

There is no vaccination requirement to enter Armenia, neither need of one to be on a safe side. In case of need you can always find any type of vaccination here. For COVID there are even different mobile points to get a vaccine.

### COVID SITUATION

The COVID situation in Armenia and the restrictions for traveling to or from Armenia, differ per moment. Have a look on the website of your own country and on this websites for the latest news: <https://www.gov.am/en/covid-travel-restrictions/>





## Transport

The transport in Yerevan exist of buses, minibuses (so-called“marshrutka”-s), trolleybuses and metro in Yerevan. The price of one trip is 100 AMD (50 AMD in trolleybus). Also taxis are not very expensive in Armenia. For the majority of cases, your ride is to cost 600-1000 AMD. Shared e-scooters and bikes are becoming more populair in Yerevan although their are not special roads to use them.

Your mentor will introduce you to the peculiarities of Armenian transport system during the first several days of your Service.

What our long-term volunteers are saying about Armenian transport...

"It is impossible to get lost in Yerevan because everyone is willing to help you with finding the right way"

ANNA

"Don't mind the honking it's normal"

LISON

"Cool attraction for low cost"

EVGENII





## Leisure time

### OUTDOOR

Armenia is a mountainous country and has beautiful landscapes. From summer to winter, hiking tours in Armenia are quite popular, offering a wide variety of activities from camping in a forest or near a lake to climbing snow covered mountains and observing the land from above the clouds. You can walk through lush forests, or hike in a dry, rocky mountainous area. In winter you are welcome to spend your time in Tsaghkadzor, snowboarding, skiing or just taking the ropeway to the top of the mountain or chilling in a cafe with a nice cup of tea. Lake Sevan is a favourite place to spend summer days at. You can also try paragliding and ziplining in the most beautiful parts of Armenia.

Closer by Yerevan you can visit the Garni Temple, Geghard Monastery Complex or the Holy See of Etchimidzin. Within half an hour you have the feeling that you are in a completely different country, away from all the cars, and the crowded city.

### EVENTS

If you are a fan of music you can find a lot of concerts in Yerevan. Opera and Ballet Theater for classical music lovers, Poligraf for techno, and music clubs for a diverse music genres. There are also open air concerts and festivals organised during the summer and autumn. Wine lovers can take part in Wine days and visit Areni village for Wine festival.

The best way to connect to locals and to cool down during the hot summer season is to join the Vardavar celebration, when locals pour water at each other.

What our long-term volunteers are saying about their leisure time activities

"You are never bored and for every person there are nice things to do. Whether you like going out, visiting museums, watching opera or ballet in the theater or enjoying the nature"

ELIAVA

"During your time here you will discover the interesting ancient culture, history and beautiful country, also you will learn a lot of new things about yourself"

FANNY





## Leisure time

### CAFE, RESTAURANTS AND PUB'S

There are a lot of cafes and restaurants in Yerevan and most of them are very affordable. You are welcome to try local specialties in one of the many traditional restaurants.

Don't be surprised with our pubs, because they are all underground. Pubs are great for meeting locals, as well as other foreigners, to play board games, dance or enjoy a concert.

### MUSEUM

If you want to feel close to Armenian, history, culture and art start from the History Museum, Erebuni museum-fortress, National Gallery, Matenadaran manuscript repository and Parajanov Museum. If you want to get hit by Armenian culture don't miss the Museum night in May. You can sneak in everywhere for free.

What our long-term volunteers are saying about their leisure time activities

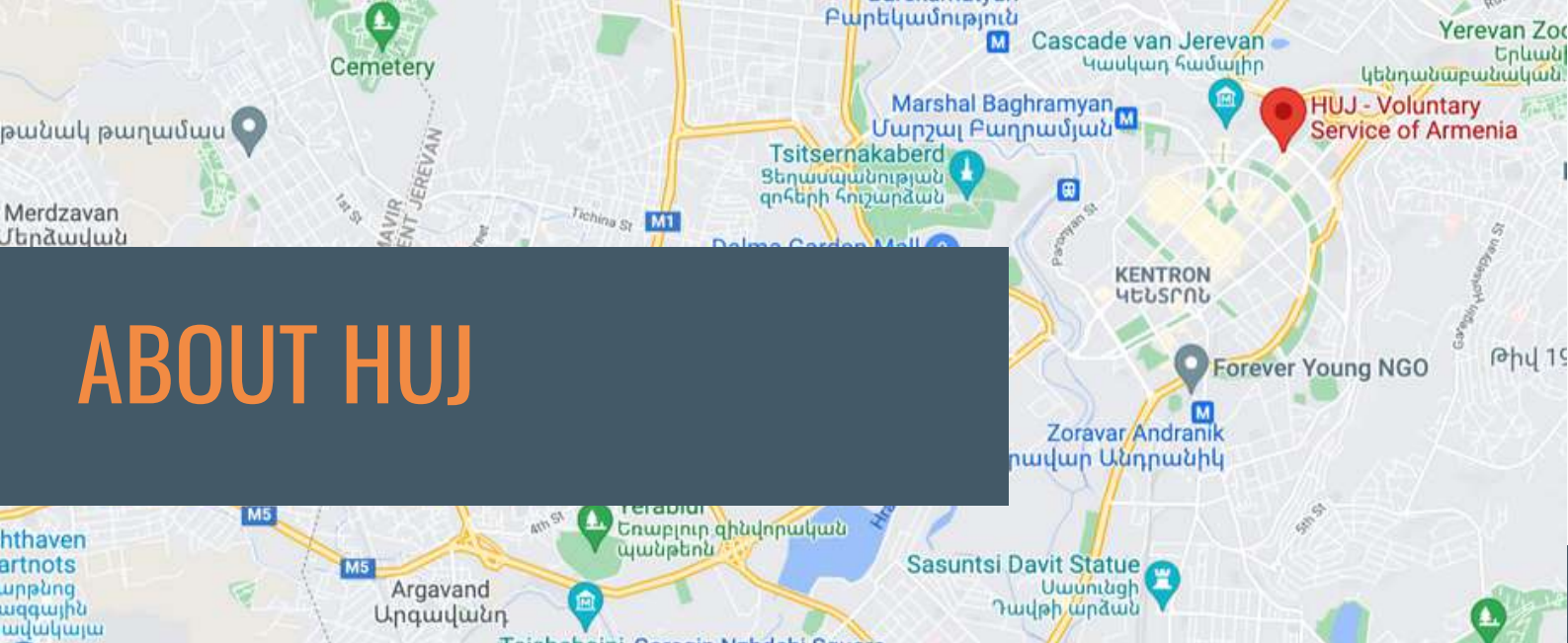
"Most places are not very touristy so you get to see the countries real beauty with its beautiful nature and ancient monasteries "

NJOMZA

"There is a suprisingly diverce and wide selection of different bars, clubs and restaurants"

FANNY





# ABOUT HUI

## Welcome to HUI

### HISTORY

The Republican Headquarters of Student Brigades (HUI) was founded in 1965 and is registered as a non-governmental organization. HUI is a member of the Coordinating Committee of International Voluntary Service (CCIVS) at UNESCO and the Alliance of European Voluntary Service organizations. At present HUI organizes volunteer exchanges with 120 partner organizations abroad and a volunteers database of 3000 volunteers.

### OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The essential aims and objectives of HUI are as follows:

- Organize the activities of Armenian and foreign volunteers in international workcamps in Armenia.
- Send Armenian volunteers to international workcamps, seminars, trainings, workshops, educational and other programs abroad.
- Organize seminars, trainings, and conferences in Armenia.
- Organize the participation of foreign volunteers in long/medium term and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) projects in Armenia, as well as that of Armenian volunteers in countries of Europe.
- Take care of orphans, children with special needs and socially indigent people.

### CONTACT DETAILS

Address: 19a Koryun Street  
0009 Yerevan, Armenia  
Tel: +374 10 522 788,  
+374 10 522 772  
E-mail: [huj@arminco.com](mailto:huj@arminco.com)  
Url: <http://www.huj.am>  
Facebook: /hujarmenia







## What our long-term volunteers are saying

**"I never felt alone or afraid because starting from preparation ending with welcoming and pick-up from the airport, everything is organized well"**

ANNA

**"You have a support system to fall back on"**

ANGELA

## OUR ACTIVITIES

- Every year many Armenian volunteers participate in ecological, construction, rehabilitation, cultural, aesthetic, social projects, seminars and educational workcamps abroad.
- Every summer HUJ organizes international and joint workcamps in Armenia, where Armenian volunteers hand in hand with foreign volunteers do ecological and renovation work, take care of sick and disabled children, contribute to the aesthetic education of orphans and lonely children.
- Every year Armenian volunteers leave for European countries to do their ESC with HUJ as their Sending Organisation.
- European long-term ESC and Weltwärts (voluntary service supported by Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany), and IYFD (voluntary service supported by Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth) volunteers are hosted in projects in 15 Host Organisations supported by HUJ.





# ABOUT VOLUNTEERING

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER

### INTRODUCTION

Before your volunteering adventure in Armenia will start, we will give you some information about what it is like to live in Armenia as a volunteer and what to expect in your first week. And which things you should arrange before coming here.

### YOUR WEEKSCHEDULE

You will work 5 days per week with most of week-ends off. Twice a week you will learn Armenian language in the Special Language Centre. During the week-ends you will have an opportunity to visit different historical places; there will be excursions to different ancient places of Armenia and invitation to Armenian families, to get to know the culture and traditions of Armenia

### TRAINING AND LANGUAGE LESSONS

Training related to the volunteer's activities will be given during the first weeks of the project upon the volunteers' arrival at hosting organization. Additional support and education is given to the volunteer when needed throughout the project by the EVS coordinator and staff.

During your service, you got offered to have an On-Arrival Training and a Mid-Term Evaluation (if the Service duration exceeds 6 months), both organized by SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus.

You get the change to learn Armenian language by attending Armenian language courses. The lessons will be provided by an English speaking teacher 2 times per week.

### Still doubting...?

*"Armenian class I really like to do, it feels like you are going back to school and you can experience your teenage years again."*

FANNY

*"Long-term volunteering (6-12 months) gives you the opportunity to see a lot of the country, to fully dive into the project, and integrate into local lifestyle what makes you understand Armenian culture and people more"*

RAJA

*"Just do it bro"*

NJOMZA





## MENTOR

To make you feel home as soon as possible in Armenia, you will have a mentor. Your mentor shows you around, tell you all the information you need to know, for example about public transport, grocery shopping and some Armenian norms and values. Also your mentor can be your first friend in Armenia and you can do activities together.

## ARRIVAL TIME AND MEETING POINT

Your mentor will pick you up at the airport upon arrival. To arrange the pick-up we shall need your ticket reservation to be sent to us as soon as you get it (not later than 10 days before arrival date). From your mentor you will receive a food package to provide you for the first days. For your first introduction in Armenia, your mentor will show you around the city at your first day. (S)he will also show you the local supermarkets, (s)he will teach you how to use local transportation, and (s)he will buy an Armenian phone-SIM card with you. Next to that you will visit some interesting museums together.

## ACCOMMODATION

You will be living in a hostel or dormitory of the Linguistic University with other volunteers (2 people per room). The both places are very close to the city centre with the various ways of getting around the city. Each volunteer is provided with the “kitchen stuff” (plates, pans, glasses, tableware, etcetera).

## FOOD

You will receive a certain amount of money for food on monthly basis. You will be able to decide yourself what, when and where to eat. There are a lot of shops, food stands, cafes and restaurants available all over the city.

## Still doubting...?

**"I am really friends with my mentor and we do a lot of activities together. I hope I will still be friends with them when I leave and hope they will visit me in France"**

MATHILDE

**"Sharing the accommodation with other volunteers helps me to not feel alone. You have friends from day one where you can hang out with"**

RAJA





## MONTHLY ALLOWANCE

At the beginning of every month the volunteers will receive monthly allowance consisting of:

- Pocket money (a.k.a. Volunteer's allowance);
- Money for food;
- Money to pay local transport.

The funds can differ according to the program.

## HOLIDAYS

Holiday period will to be agreed in advance with the hosting organization and HUJ. There is a set of public, religious holidays and days of memory to be respected and considered as non-working days. Additionally, the volunteer gets 2 holiday days for each month of their Service.

## RECEIVE VISIT

Of course your friends and relatives can come to visit you. Please make sure that you inform us in advance, so that we could help you to find accommodation for them as well as for you to be able to have holidays, if you want.

## VISA

The citizens of European Union benefit from visa-free entrance to Republic of Armenia. For a long-term stay (exceeding 180 days) the foreign citizens are entitled to get Residence Permit. The procedure of obtaining the Residence Permit is fully done by HUJ in Armenia.

## Still doubting...?

**"Everything I do I enjoy but if I have to say; Ararat region is my favorite, everywhere you go there you can see biblical mountain Ararat and that is like someone just made a painting in the sky so beautiful"**

MATHILDE

**"There is something special with biblical mountain Ararat, because you can't see it everyday. If you wake up it is always a question if you get treated with the beautiful view or not"**

ELIAVA





## WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

- You needn't either sleeping bag or sheets or linen with you in the project, you will be provided with the bed sheets, linen, pillowcase, blanket for the winter and pillow.
- For your comfort (especially during travels) we also advise to take a sleeping bag, if you want.
- Please bring your own towel and personal hygiene products you might need during your stay. It is certain that you will find most of the products you use here
- You will have free time after the work, so you can bring your music instruments, tapes with your favourite songs and music and, of course, your good mood and your creativity.
- For activities with children you can bring some games or books, like board games, card games, instruments, painting books.
- If you like hiking there are a lot of beautiful hiking trails so bring your hiking shoes and clothes
- In winter it can be very cold so take your warm clothes with you
- Don't forget your passport, debit card and health insurance card

## CURRENCY

It is better to have money in Euro or US Dollars to exchange it easily with exchange offices. Besides, you can also withdraw money from your bank card (make sure it's an international one): the ATMs have quite plausible exchange rates.

## POST ADDRESS

### FOR LETTERS:

<Your Name>  
c/o HUI – Voluntary Service of  
Armenia  
19a Koryun Street  
0009 Yerevan, ARMENIA

### FOR PARCEL, PACKAGES

<Your Name>  
19a Koryun Street  
0009 Yerevan, ARMENIA