

Information about HUU and Armenia:

HUU-Voluntary Service of Armenia

Year of the foundation: HUU- Voluntary Service of Armenia, The Republican Headquarters of Student Brigades (HUU) was founded in 1965. HUU is registered as a non-governmental organization.

Aims and objectives:

The essential aims and objectives of HUU are as follows:

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

Every year 250 Armenian volunteers participate in ecological, construction, rehabilitation, cultural, aesthetic, social projects, seminars and educational programs of international workcamps abroad. They also participate in long-term (8-9 months) and medium-term programs, European Voluntary Service (EVS) programs taking care of orphans, the old and the disabled.

Every summer HUU organizes 7-8 international workcamps in Armenia, where Armenian volunteers hand in hand with 150 foreign volunteers do ecological and renovation work, take care of sick and disabled children, contribute to the aesthetic education of orphan and lonely children. Official website: www.huj.am

Workcamps in Armenia:

Welcome or "Bari Galoust" as we say in Armenia!

We greet your interest to participate in our camps, and would like to present the following useful information.

Information about Armenia:

Area	29.800 sq.km
Population	4 mln, Armenians, Russians, Greeks, Kurds, Assyrians, Ezids, Jewish, Georgians, etc.
Religion	Christianity. Armenia was the first country that adopted Christianity as a state religion in 301
Language	Armenian belongs to Indo-European language group. The alphabet was invented in 405
Time	GMT + 4 hours
Climate, temperature	Continental, average temperature in summer +25- +28C
Capital	Yerevan, founded 2791 years ago
Lake Sevan	Mountainous sweet water lake is the pearl of Armenia and miracle of nature – changes it's colours 5 times a day. The altitude of the Sevan is 1,950 m above sea level.
Ararat Mountain	Symbol of Armenia - the legendary bible mountain Ararat, where Noah's Ark has moored, is the highest top of Armenian Highlands.
Money	The Armenian currency is Dram (AMD) Currency exchange rate (Feb 2010): 1 Euro = 570 Drams 1 USD = 385 Drams

How to get to Armenia:

By air: There are direct flights from Paris, London, Amsterdam, Vienna, Athens, Frankfurt, Berlin, Zurich, Prague,...

There are also many charter and transit flights from other European countries.

Meeting point:

If you inform us about your arrival details in advance, volunteers of your camp will meet you in the airport and take you to your camp.

Try not to be late for the beginning of the workcamp. If you wish to arrive 1-2 days earlier or to stay a couple of days longer after the camp, we can suggest you to stay at the volunteers' homes or at the hostel.

VISA

HUU provides you with free visa in Armenian Embassies in the Armenian Embassy in Berlin. Please contact your sending organisation for further details. You can also get the visa in the airport in Yerevan for 3000 AMD (~6 €) - 21 days, 15000 AMD (~ 28 €) - 120 days.

INFORMATION

In order to get more information about Armenia, we recommend you to visit the following websites: www.armeniainfo.am, armenia.com; www.armeniapedia.org

Details about HUI-Camps:

Work: Some of our camps have become traditional. Types of the works in our workcamps are ecological, cultural, aesthetic work with children. The work is expected to be interesting and various.

Accommodation and food: Do not worry about sleeping bags. You can leave them at home, as you will stay in the building/cottages of the hosting organizations where you will be provided with beds and bedding packs. Making beds and keeping the rooms neat and clean every day is obligatory. Volunteers will prepare the food themselves. You will taste all kinds of Armenian traditional food and drinks, such as dolma, kabab, khorovats (barbecue), Armenian wines and beer, incomparable fruits of Ararat Valley - of apricots, grapes, peaches, apples, berries and a big assortment of vegetables. Vegetarians will be provided with relevant food.

Leisure time: Armenia is called an open-air museum. A lot of interesting excursions and visits to historical monuments, ancient churches and monasteries, temples and museums will be organized during the workcamp. The following excursions will be financed from the budgets of the workcamps: Echmiadzin Mother Cathedral, Zvartnots Cathedral ruins, Garni Pagan Temple, Geghard Monastery Complex, Lake Sevan (with a picnic on the beach). Volunteers will also visit Matenadaran-storehouse of ancient manuscripts, Historical Museum of Armenia, National Gallery of Armenia, Modern Art Museum, Erebuni-museum of the city foundation, museum of famous film director S.Parajanov, Vernisaj – Armenian big souvenirs market under the open sky.

What to bring with you: It is very important to take along different table games, songbooks, children song CDs for work with children and for using in the performances/concerts to be organized for the last day of the workcamp. During the workcamp volunteers will be organizing the “Day of the country” which the volunteer is representing so please bring photos and booklets describing your country, recipes of national dishes. You will have free time after the work, so you can bring your music instruments, CDs with your favourite national songs and music and of course your high spirit and your creativity.

Conditions: You have to be at least 17 years old. In Armenian camps you have to be disciplined and organized.