

# REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



Area: 29,743 sq. km (like Maryland), landlocked  
Population: 3m (2020) (137<sup>th</sup> in world); Armenian 98%

Religion: Christian (Armenian Apostolic Church); 92%  
GDP (PPP)\$28.34b (2017); GDP (PPP) per capita: \$9,500 (2017)  
Exports to US: \$26m. (Aluminum foil 75%); Imports from US \$9.9m  
Human Development Index 2018: .760; High HDI – 88 out of 189)  
Life Expectancy: 75.14 years (2020)  
Government: Parliamentary Democracy  
President: Armen Sarkissian (since 9 April 2018)

Prime Minister: Nikol Pashinyan (since 8 May 2018)

Memberships: UN and its agencies; Eurasian Economic Union, NATO Program for Peace; EU Partnership Agreement

Armenia is a small but charming nation at the Southeast edge of Europe boasting a rich history and stunning views dominated by Mt. Ararat.

Armenia prides itself on being the first nation to formally adopt Christianity (4th century). Despite periods of autonomy, over the centuries Armenia came under the sway of various empires including the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman. During World War I, the Ottoman Empire instituted a policy of forced resettlement and ethnic cleansings which resulted in Armenian Genocide, which was recognized by US Congress in 2019. Armenia was Sovietized in 1920 and after the collapse of Soviet Union regained its independence in 1991.

Armenia is party to Nagorno Karabakh conflict along with Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan. The final status of Nagorno-Karabakh remains the subject of international mediation by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, which is co-chaired by the US, France, and Russia.

Since independence in 1991, Armenia has switched from the large agro-industrial complexes of the Soviet era to small-scale agriculture and industry. Armenia has only two open trade borders - Iran and Georgia - because its borders with Azerbaijan and Turkey have been closed since 1991 and 1993, respectively.

The US established diplomatic relations with Armenia in 1992 following its independence from the Soviet Union. The two countries have numerous agreements affecting trade and investment.

## INTERESTING FACTS:

- Armenian alphabet has 36 letters – complex
- 7 million people of Armenian descent live outside the country
- Kim Kardashian, Cher and Andre Agassi are of Armenian descent

