

Walking Holiday in Armenia

Discover majestic mountain landscapes and enthralling historical sights on this well-paced Armenia walking holiday.



Group departures

See overleaf for departure dates

Holiday overview

Style	Walking
Accommodation	Hotels
Grade	Gentle / Moderate (see Trip Summary)
Duration	9 days from London to London
Trekking / Walking days	Walks on: 7 days
Min/Max group size	4 / 12. Guaranteed to run for 4
Trip Leader	Local Leader Armenia
Land only	Joining in Yerevan, Armenia
Max altitude	Mount Artanish, 2,461m / 8,121ft, Day 5

Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available



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Group Departure Dates and Prices

Group departures

2026 Dates:

Sat 18 Apr - Sun 26 Apr
Sat 02 May - Sun 10 May
Sat 12 Sep - Sun 20 Sep

2027 Dates:

Sat 17 Apr - Sun 25 Apr
Sat 01 May - Sun 09 May
Sat 11 Sep - Sun 19 Sep

Group prices

Visit the holiday page of our website for up-to-date land only and flight inclusive prices for all group departure dates <https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/holiday/armenia-walking-holiday>.

Single supplement options can also be found here.

No Surcharge Guarantee

The flight inclusive or land only price will be confirmed to you at the time you make your booking. There will be no surcharges after your booking has been confirmed.

Will the trip run?

This trip is guaranteed to run for 4 people and for a maximum of 12. In the rare event that we cancel a holiday, we will refund you in full and give you at least 6 weeks warning. Many trips do fill up quickly - we advise you to book early if you want to secure a place(s) on the dates of your choice.

Insurance

We offer a travel insurance scheme - please contact us for details.

Private Departures

We can also offer this trip as a private holiday. A Private Departure follows exactly the same itinerary as the group departure but at dates to suit you (subject to availability) - please contact us with your preferred dates.

Tailor Made service

We pride ourselves on the level of quality and choice we provide for our clients who want a fully tailor made holiday. A holiday will be created especially for you by one of our well-travelled experts. They will be able to advise on the accommodation best suited to your needs, the sights you should visit (and those to avoid!) and the best walks and activities matched to your ability. In short, we will work together with you to create your perfect holiday. If you would like to explore the idea of a Tailor Made holiday with Mountain Kingdoms then please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or see the Tailor Made pages of our website for further inspiration.

Your guide



For all our holidays in Armenia we used experienced local guides who are fluent in English.

Mary Mirzakhanyan (pictured) is one of the guides who leads our holidays in Armenia. Mary specialises in guiding walking and cultural tours and has over 10 years experience in leading groups, particularly those from the UK and Europe. Mary also worked as a trainer for guides between 2016 and 2020. She is hard-working, passionate about her job, has a good sense of humor, and excellent communication skills - in fact everything you could want in your holiday guide.

Your trip highlights

- Explore the main historical sites including the UNESCO World Heritage Geghard Monastery
- Discover the vibrant capital Yerevan with its museums, markets and modern art
- Enjoy well-paced walks on scenic mountain paths with breathtaking views
- Walk a beautiful section of the Transcaucasian Trail to Goshavank Monastery
- Stay in comfortable, en suite accommodation throughout

At a glance itinerary

Days 1-2	Fly to Yerevan. Sightseeing.
Day 3	Drive to Dilijan with walk on the Transcaucasian Trail to Gosh Lake and Goshavank Monastery.
Day 4	Walk the Medieval Monasteries Trail.
Day 5	Drive to lake Sevan. Walk on Mount Artanish. Drive to Yeghegis via Noratus.
Day 6	Hike to Smbataberd Fortress and Tsakhats Kar. Return to Yeghegis.
Day 7	Drive to near Noravank and walk to monastery. Drive to Yerevan via Khor Virap.
Day 8	Walk to Garni Temple. Visit Gehard Monastery.
Day 9	Fly to London.

Trip summary

Armenia is a beautiful, mountainous country with a long and proud history. The numerous medieval monasteries, unique alphabet, stunning wildflowers, soaring mountains and welcoming people are just a few of the reasons to visit. When you add in the delicious food and wine, and the small number of visitors, we think this is a great country to explore on foot.

Set at the cusp of Europe and Asia, you feel as if you are stepping from one continent to the other at every turn. Yerevan, the vibrant capital where your Armenian walking holiday starts has a European feel and a lively café culture. Towering over the city is the snow-capped Mount Ararat, now in Turkey and inaccessible to Armenians, but their principle national symbol from earlier times when Armenia was a large and much more powerful country. When you leave Yerevan and travel into the countryside, the way of life seems unchanged for centuries, with many people living in small, traditional villages growing their own food and owning their own cows, sheep and pigs. The Armenians are unfailingly friendly and delighted to welcome visitors into their villages.

The walks on this itinerary are mainly on good paths, and are a maximum of 12km long. Armenia is a mountainous country, and all the walks will involve some ascent and descent - there is very little flat land! There are no high altitude issues on the holiday, as the maximum you will reach is Mount Artanish at 2,461m.

Special notes

Joining in Yerevan

If you are organising your own flights please check with the office to confirm that the trip is up and running and for the time of the single group transfer to/from Yerevan airport. If you book your own flights, or you book flights with Mountain Kingdoms that arrive at a different time from the main group and therefore require separate transfers, we can quote accordingly. We can also advise on public transport options if required.

Your trip itinerary

Day 1: Fly London to Yerevan

You will be met on arrival at Yerevan airport and transferred to your centrally located hotel in the city.

Overnight: Republica Hotel or Similar, Yerevan

Day 2: Walking tour of Yerevan. Afternoon visit to Tsitsernakaberd and Vernissage and GUM markets.

Today, with your expert guide, you will explore the capital of Armenia on foot, starting with a visit to Mother Armenia, the huge statue that dominates the city and gives a great overview of the area. The Armenians are rightly proud of the stylish Cascades area that you visit next. The Yerevan Cascade is a giant stairway of 572 steps that links the city centre with the upper parts of Yerevan. It is divided into several levels with a memorial to the 50th anniversary of Soviet Armenia at the top - the views of the city from here are extensive. The Tamanyan Sculpture Park is in the lower part of the Cascade complex and features modern works of art.



In the afternoon you will walk to Tsitsernakaberd to visit the genocide memorial and museum before returning to the centre.

Finally you enjoy a stroll through the famous Vernissage street market set in a classic Yerevan square, and take a look round the GUM Market which sells a wide variety of fresh food, spices and sweets.

Overnight: Republica Hotel or Similar, Yerevan (Meals: B D)

Day 3: Drive via Lake Sevan to Dilijan and Parz Lake. Walk to Goshavank Monastery - 12km, 5 hours, 150m ascent, 400m descent. Drive to Dilijan.

You leave Yerevan today to travel north to the province of Tavush. You will pass Lake Sevan before entering a road tunnel - when you emerge the other side it is into a totally different landscape of soaring limestone peaks and heavily forested hillsides.

Today you walk along a part of the Transcaucasian trail, hiking through beautiful forest to end at Goshavank Monastery. The undulating trail is on good paths and starts at Parz Lake, a popular local recreation area. From here you walk uphill through the cool forest, sometimes passing open areas of haymaking fields before re-entering the forest. You will occasionally pass old khachkars or stone crosses. Towards the end of the walk there are fabulous views of Goshavank Monastery below. Goshavank is one of Armenia's most well-known monasteries and is situated in a very picturesque location. The buildings date back to the 12th or early 13th centuries and are made from black tufa stone, although the colour of the external walls is a pleasing ochre red. A statue of its founder, Mkhitar Gosh, stands (or sits) outside. The monastery complex comprises several chapels and churches, a bell tower, and a ruined school building, all of which are attached to each other.

Having explored Goshavank you will drive on to Dilijan which is your base for the next two days. Dilijan is known locally as 'Armenia's Switzerland' and was a 19th century spa town.

Overnight: Best Western Plus Paradise Hotel or Similar, Dilijan (Meals: BLD)

Day 4: Walk the Medieval Monasteries Trail - 4 km, 3 hours, 120m ascent.

Today you explore Dilijan's beauty and history on the Medieval Monasteries Trail. Setting out from the western edge of Dilijan's city limits, this walk loops around a valley and connects two historic monasteries: Matosavank and Jukhtakvank - both reclaimed by time and nature. The trail begins from a dirt road, onto fresh single-track trail, through grassy meadows and dense groves of elm, oak and hornbeam trees. This gentle walk winds through lush landscapes offering a very peaceful experience.

Overnight: Best Western Plus Paradise Hotel or Similar, Dilijan (Meals: BLD)

Day 5: Drive to Lake Sevan. Mount Artanish walk - approximately 6km, 3 hours, 580m ascent, 580m descent. Drive via Selim Caravanserai to Yeghegis.

This morning you drive via the shores of picturesque Lake Sevan to the mountain village of Artanish. The small peak of Mount Artanish, 2,641m, is right next to the lake at the point where greater and lesser sections of Lake Sevan meet between the Artanish and Noratus peninsulas. It is a very pleasant, gradual walk to the top along small paths and up grassy meadows. As you ascend you may well see large flocks of sheep and goats grazing. The views from the top are spectacular! Below you stretches the whole of Lake Sevan - one of the largest high altitude lakes in the world at 1,900m - and there are stunning views all round of the Geghama Mountains. You descend on the opposite side and then walk along the lakeside to re-join your vehicle.

The next stop is on the opposite side of the lake where you visit the 'field' of khachkars (carved stone crosses) near the town of Noratus. The site, containing about 900 khachkars all facing west and dating from medieval times, is quite amazing. From here you drive over the Selim pass, 2,410m, on the old Silk Road, stopping to visit Orbelian's caravanserai - built in 1332 and the best preserved in Armenia. You will continue your journey through the mountains to reach Yeghegis.

Overnight: Arevi Hotel or Similar, Yeghegis (Meals: BLD)

Day 6: Walk to Smbataberd Fortress and Tsakhats Kar - 13km, 5-6 hours, ascent 550m, descent 450m.

The beautiful Yeghegis valley in the Vayots Dzor province, was once an important political centre, hence the dramatically situated Smbataberd Fortress looming over the valley. The fortress dates from the 5th century and is built on the southern end of a ridge with three of its sides protected by precipitous cliff faces. There is a good path from the farming village of Yeghegis that gradually ascends to the western end of the fort. Inside the fort itself little remains, but the views down three sides are spectacular.



From here you descend along the ridge to pick up the path to Tsakhats Kar. Set in a very remote spot, this monastery and church was apparently built as a burial place for those killed by the Persians whilst defending the fortress. Parts have been re-built and there are some interesting carvings still remaining.

From here you descend back by an alternative route to Yeghegis.

Overnight: Arevi Hotel or Similar, Yeghegis (Meals: BLD)

Day 7: Drive to Noravank. Walk to monastery - 3km, 2 hours, 160m ascent, 180m descent. Drive to Khor Virap and Yerevan. Visit the Matenadaran Museum.

Today you drive to Amaghu village to start the hike to Noravank Monastery through the Gnishik Canyon. Gnishik is a very scenic canyon which showcases many of the natural highlights of Vayots Dzor province. Its cliffs, caves, forests and rivers are home to hundreds of species of flora and fauna including the indigenous bezoar goats. Your trail winds down into a beautiful, narrow gorge, following a river that leads through vertical, crimson-red rocks until you eventually reach Noravank Monastery. Sometimes called the 'red monastery', after the colour of the surrounding cliffs, it is one of Armenia's most captivating sights. The monastic complex was founded in 1205 although the surrounding walls weren't added until the 18th century. The two churches and chapel of the monastery underwent some renovation work in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Leaving Noravank you drive to Yerevan via Khor Virap. This is another ancient monastery and pilgrimage site but the spectacular backdrop of snow-draped Mount Ararat, give it extra 'wow' factor.

Arriving back in Yerevan you will visit the Matenadaran Museum which houses around 17,000 manuscripts dating back as far as the 5th century.

Overnight: Republica Hotel or Similar, Yerevan (Meals: BLD)

Day 8: Drive to Banavan Village. Walk down the gorge to the Symphony of Stones then on to Garni Temple - 7.5km, 2½ hours. Drive to visit Geghard Monastery. Return to Yerevan.

After a short drive, today's walk begins at Banavan Village. You start by heading downhill, descending into a scenic gorge where you will encounter the breathtaking Symphony of Stones, a unique natural rock formation resembling a grand organ. From there, the trail climbs to reach the historical Temple of Garni.

Garni Temple is the only remaining Greco-Roman colonnaded building in all of Armenia. It is thought to have been built in the first century and, although devastated by the 1679 earthquake, it was reconstructed between 1969 and 1975 using the original stonework. It is an impressive and unexpected sight and is one of Armenia's most-visited cultural attractions.



Your last stop of the day is at Geghard Monastery, once an important ecclesiastical centre and now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Situated at the head of the Azat Valley the churches and tombs at Geghard are cut into the surrounding rock, whilst towering cliffs add to the sense of drama. It is an extremely well-preserved example of medieval Armenian architecture as well as being exceptionally photogenic.

Drive back to your hotel in Yerevan at the end of the day.

Overnight: Republica Hotel or Similar, Yerevan (Meals: BLD)

Day 9: Transfer to airport and fly to London.

After breakfast there will be a group transfer Yerevan airport to catch your flight home. **(Meals: B)**

Our grading system

This Walking Holiday in Armenia is graded as a Gentle/Moderate trekking holiday, as described below.

Gentle

Trips within this grade typically mix sightseeing with easy-paced half and/or full day walks. On these trips, walks will be on relatively low altitude trails, for a duration of around 4-6 hours. On all of our Gentle graded trips, some ascent and descent should be anticipated, and there may occasionally be a longer walking day. Holidays within this grade generally use hotels and comfortable lodges although a few do have some nights camping.

These holidays are suitable for people who enjoy easy-paced walks in the British countryside or exploring on foot rather than in a vehicle.

Moderate

Holidays in this grade typically involve 5 to 10 days of walking or trekking. They will often venture into more remote country and can cross mountain passes. Altitudes though are still relatively low, going no higher than around 4,300m/14,000ft. Accommodation can include simple hotels, tea houses, lodges and camping.

What the price includes

Mountain Kingdoms aims to offer the best value for money. We do not charge extra for meal packages or apply local charges and try to ensure that all the key elements of your holiday are included.

What's included:

- ✓ 8 x Breakfasts, 6 x lunches, and 7 x dinners
- ✓ Good hotel accommodation on a twin-share basis
- ✓ A local, English-speaking guide
- ✓ All sightseeing and other activities as specified in the itinerary
- ✓ Economy class return air fares from the UK (flight inclusive option). If you are travelling land only, check with our office for joining time at the airport
- ✓ Single timed group transfer to/from Yerevan airport at the start and end of the holiday
- ✓ All other transfers as per the itinerary
- ✓ All road transport by private vehicles
- ✓ A free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle

Airport transfers

The cost of a transfer to/from the airport is included in the price of your holiday. This is a single group transfer which is arranged to coincide with the timings of the group flights. If you book your own flights which arrive/depart at different times to this, or we book flights at your request that have different timings, we will be happy to provide a quote for a separate transfer. Please contact us should you require any further information.

What's not included:

- × Travel insurance
- × Locally paid bar bills and laundry
- × Optional activities
- × Tips

Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

Our clients who are not given a free Mountain Kingdoms kit bag for their holiday (these are required for certain treks), will instead receive a free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle. These unique Water-to-Go bottles can also be purchased from us at a discounted rate.

For further information about our campaign visit [For further information about our campaign visit <https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign>](https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign).

Your accommodation

We will endeavour to secure the hotels named in the itinerary but if our first choice of hotel is not available we will book a suitable alternative of a similar standard.



Republica Hotel or Similar, Yerevan

The Republica is a 3 star hotel situated in the heart of Yerevan, with all the main sights only a stroll away. Guest rooms have en suite facilities, air-conditioning and tea/coffee makers as well as free Wi-Fi. The hotel has a bar with outdoor eatery and a restaurant serving international cuisine.



Best Western Plus Paradise Hotel or Similar, Dilijan

The Best Western Hotel Paradise is a large, comfortable hotel set in wooded grounds. There is a bar, cafe and restaurant offering Armenian and international dishes. It has a large, outdoor swimming pool as well as a smaller roof-top pool with sun terrace. All rooms are en suite and come well-equipped with fridges, tea/coffee makers and Wi-Fi. Some here rooms come complete with balconies.



Arevi Hotel or Similar, Yeghegis

The Arevi is a small, simple hotel set in a truly stunning location with incredible close-up mountain views. It is uniquely designed and built entirely from containers yet is stylish, warm and cosy. Rooms are basic but modern and comfy and the hotel serves delicious food.

Meal arrangements

All meals except for lunch on Day 2 in Yerevan.

Flight arrangements

Flight inclusive from price

Our 'Flight inclusive from' price is based on the best fare available at the time of printing. As airfares change on a constant basis, this should be used only as a guide price. Rest assured that, at the time of booking, we will endeavour to get the best possible price for the flights you need. Remember, the earlier you book the greater your chances of securing the best fare.

Flight inclusive packages booked through Mountain Kingdoms are protected through our ATOL bonding scheme.

Flight upgrades and regional Airports

Please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 for flight options from regional UK airports, Business Class upgrades, alternative airlines and stopovers. Please also check our website for the most up to date flight inclusive 'from' prices.

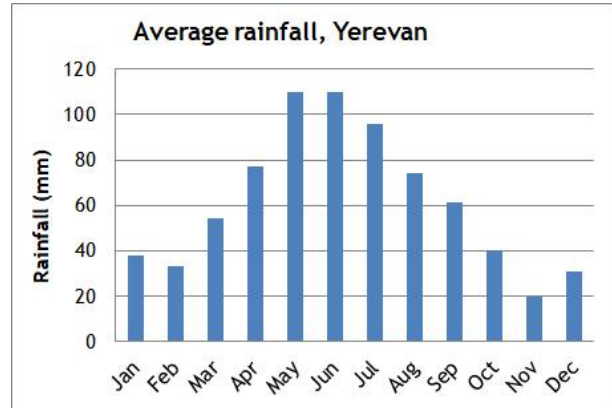
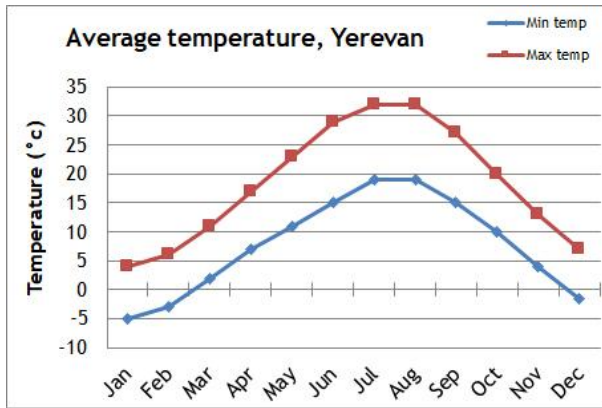
Further information

When we receive your booking, we send you a full Trip Dossier which contains details of any visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. If you do have queries at this initial stage do call us on 01453 844400 and we will be pleased to offer advice.

The nature of adventure travel

Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but we cannot guarantee that things may not change, either before you travel or while you are away. By its very nature, adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected, particularly in more remote areas. A variety of factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes to local schedules and difficulties with transportation can all contribute to the need to make changes to the itinerary, often at the very last minute. Our Operations Manager and your Trip Leader will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary and minimise the impact of any changes, but an easy-going and flexible nature is a real asset! Please note that all timings and distances given are approximate.

Climate information



Extensions

Extending your holiday

If you would like additional inspiration on how or where to extend your holiday please call us on 01453 844400.



There are many ways you can extend your holiday with Mountain Kingdoms: you could book extra hotel nights at the start or end of your trip, arrange a personal sightseeing tour or enjoy some other exciting activities. In fact, whatever's available we can help make it happen. We're happy to suggest ideas, provide quotes and make all the arrangements.

We can also assist with flight and hotel upgrades.

What you say



From start to finish, dealing with the team at Mountain Kingdoms was a pleasure and everyone did their utmost to tailor my plans for the Gentle Walking in Armenia Trip. All the hard work paid off and with dividends. The trip was FANTASTIC. The local crew went out of their way to provide the seven members of the group with the most amazing experience. The variety of scenery and walking was perfect as it showed us so many different aspects of this small, beautiful country. Some of the walking was quite tough, so not to be underestimated. The food was out of this world and the accommodation was varied and more than adequate. I can't praise Mountain Kingdoms enough for providing this tour.

-David, North Wales



Our brilliant guide, Lilit, made this holiday really special for me. The itinerary was well organised and flexible enough to fit in changes.

-Melanie, Somerset



We were impressed by the pride and enthusiasm of our guide who told us about so many Armenians who are not honoured for their achievements as Armenian eg the inventor of the MIGb aeroplane Artem Mikoyan and the humbling respect for their many ancient monasteries and churches.

-J Plumtre, London

Hiking Armenia is a thought provoking and full on trip with long days not to be underestimated. Armenia is well worth a visit with some stunning sights.

-Ben, Aylesbury



A good week-long introduction to a remarkable and little visited country. Takes in most of the key ancient sites and some beautiful countryside on the varied half day walks. Good standard of accommodation in three very different locations.

-Richard, London

The opportunity to explore and learn about a country we knew very little of. The guiding was excellent, the accommodation good, transport worked well. Scenery amazing. The walking was more demanding than we anticipated. We have no hesitation recommending this holiday to fit walkers.

-MLIG, Durham



We had a truly exceptional guide - Lileete (spelling?) All the arrangements worked like clockwork. The accommodation and food were excellent.

-Liz Randall, St Andrews

I liked the holiday as I learned a lot about Armenia and its history. The guide for the trip was very knowledgeable. The food was very tasty.

-Andrew, West Suffolk

Why book this holiday with Mountain Kingdoms?

- This itinerary is unique to Mountain Kingdoms.
- There are interesting walks on all days including a small section of the newly established Transcaucasian Trail.
- Your local English-speaking guide will have excellent knowledge of the local history and culture.
- You stay in comfortable accommodation throughout and all meals, except on lunch in Yerevan, are included.
- Group airport transfers and a guided walking tour of Yerevan are included in the price of your holiday.
- We research our new holidays ourselves and staff member, Seraphina Berry, researched this trip in the spring of 2020. If you have any questions about it please contact Seraphina on 01453 844400, she will be very happy to help.
- We work directly with some of the world's major airlines. If you wish to fly with a specific airline, from a regional UK airport or on alternative dates to the main group we would be happy to arrange this for you. Please contact our Flights Manager, April, for flight options, quotes and further information.

If we've tempted you to take your next holiday with us, we advise you to check availability and you can do this via our website: www.mountainkingdoms.com or by calling the team on +44 (0)1453 844400. Bookings can be made online, by phone or by completing a booking form and returning it to us. We can also provisionally hold places if you need time to consider your options.

Mountain Kingdoms - distinctly different

Truly independent

In an age where many so-called 'independent' travel companies have in fact been bought out by multi-national giants, we remain fiercely independent with all the benefits this offers our clients.

Value for money prices with an emphasis on quality

We are not in the business of cutting our itineraries and services to the bone to offer eye-catching cheap prices. We use some of the best airlines, and typically 3 or 4 star hotels in cities. We include the majority of meals and private transport for road travel. We use excellent equipment and appoint well-trained staff and leaders. Last year, over 98% of our clients rated their Mountain Kingdoms holiday as 'excellent' or 'good'. We are members of AITO and bound by their quality charter.

Complete financial security

You can book with us confident that your holiday has full financial protection. Flight inclusive holidays are financially protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL licence number 2973 and 'Land Only' holidays are covered by a bond secured with ABTOT.

No Surcharge Guarantee

Your peace of mind is important to us so we have a No Surcharge Guarantee on all Land Only and Flight Inclusive bookings. This means that there will be no change to the price of your holiday once we have confirmed your booking, regardless of fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices.

Award winning Responsible Tourism

We feel strongly that all our holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. You can read more about the charities we support and our Responsible Tourism commitments and initiatives on the following page or at www.mountainkingdoms.com.

Genuine small group travel

Almost all of our holidays have a maximum group size of just 12, plus leader. This provides more contact with your leader, readier access to off-the-beaten-path areas, greater interaction with local communities and a reduced environmental impact.

Loyalty Discount

If you have previously travelled with us we recognise your loyalty with a discount on future trips.

Booking your holiday - it couldn't be easier

Once you've chosen your Mountain Kingdoms holiday you can book online, call the office or complete and post a booking form which can be found in our brochure or downloaded from our website. If you would like to hold a place on one of our trips, whilst you make up your mind, please give us a call to make a provisional booking. This is a no-obligation, no-cost booking and we will hold your place until space comes under pressure or we need your decision.

Comprehensive information

When we receive your booking we send you a full trip dossier which contains details of visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. In fact, everything you need to know to give you peace of mind and allow you to prepare for your trip of a lifetime.



RESPONSIBLE TOURISM STATEMENT

For almost four decades, Mountain Kingdoms has been offering people the chance to visit amazing places on this extraordinary planet. We now have trips to all corners of the globe but are conscious that our holidays can have a detrimental impact on the world around us and want to do all we can to reduce that.

We have focused our main responsible tourism efforts on reducing the carbon emissions produced by our holidays, and counterbalancing this carbon by supporting carbon offset measures. Here are some of our current and future plans to minimise the impact of our business as a whole.

Carbon offsetting

Since 2007, we have donated a percentage of our client and staff flight costs to the Ecoan tree planting project in Peru. Ecoan are a trusted local NGO who use the funds directly to purchase seedling trees with the long-term goal of restoring 2.5 million acres of Andean land.

Ecoan maintains over 100 tree nurseries across Peru where their tree saplings are grown and then transported to planting sites during the rainy season. They use native trees such as the Polylepis, as these can survive at high altitudes. As well as sequestering carbon, they help protect against soil erosion, landslides and the effects of extreme weather on local crops. As such, they are enormously beneficial to the economic well-being of the surrounding communities. This is very much a community-led conservation project, with the local Quechuan people coming together to plant tens of thousands of saplings in the Andean highlands where they live. During the annual Queuña Raymi (tree festival), over 150,000 native trees can be planted in a single day!

For every person booking a long-haul, flight inclusive holiday with us, Ecoan can purchase and plant 20 trees in Peru, and for short-haul flights, 7 trees. Typically, we send over \$7,000 per year to Ecoan, which is over 7,000 trees.

Reducing carbon emissions

- ✓ We offer the majority of our clients a free, filtered Water-to-Go bottle to help reduce the need for single-use plastic bottles during their travels.
- ✓ We predominantly use locally-owned hotels and guesthouses rather than multinational chains. In some of our destinations, such as Bhutan, we use homestays. Not only does this type of small-sized, locally-owned accommodation have a much-reduced carbon footprint, but it also helps support communities.
- ✓ We evaluate our flights to make sure we are using the most fuel-efficient airlines with the youngest fleets and, where possible, choose direct flights for each trip.
- ✓ We have stopped offering unnecessary optional flights, such as Everest sightseeing. We try to minimise internal flights where possible.
- ✓ We recycle as much of our office waste as possible and have introduced a client portal to reduce paperwork and to make it easier for clients to manage their trips online.

Wider commitment to responsible and sustainable tourism

- ✓ We are signatories to the Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency initiative to stand alongside other like-minded travel companies to initiate best practices to make tourism as sustainable as possible.
- ✓ We will continue to support several charities with whom we have a long-standing relationship, such as Shiva Charity in Nepal.

Over the years, we have given sizeable payments to emergency relief when a disaster has occurred in the countries we operate in. We always try to ensure that these funds go directly to those who need them most to help rebuild their lives.

