

GEOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTIC OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



TERRITORY

Republic of Armenia is situated in south-western part of Asia. The country occupies the north-eastern part of Armenian plateau – between Caucasus and Nearest Asia (the inter-river territory between the middle flows of Kur and Araks rivers). The total territory is located in the latitude of $38^{\circ} 50^1 - 41^{\circ} 18^1$ N and longitude of $43^{\circ} 27^1 - 46^{\circ} 37^1$ E.

In the north and east it borders with Georgia and Azerbaijan, and in the west and south – Turkey and Iran.

The country's area comprises 29743 km^2 , of which 46.8% - agricultural land, 34.9% - mountains, plateaus and other land, 12.7% - forests and 5.6% - water surface.

The highest elevation of the country is the Peak of Aragats Mountain (4090 m), the deepest landslide – the Debed river canyon (390 m). The longest extension from north-west to south-east is 360 km, and from west to east – 200 km.

The largest lake in the territory of Armenia is Sevan Lake (surface 1239 km^2), the longest river is Araks – 158 km (the total length – 1072 km).



The top of Aragats mountain

MOUNTAIN TOPS

Name	Place	The height above sea level, m
Aragats	Aragats massif	4090
Kaputjugh	Zangezur mountain range	3906
Ajdahak	Geghama mountain range	3598
Spitakasar	Geghama mountain range	3555
Vardenis	Vardenis mountain range	3522
Aramasar	Bargushat mountain range	3392
Ishkhanasar	Gharabagh plateau	3549
Baghatssar	Meghri mountain range	3250
Khustup	Khustup-Katar mountain range	3214
Legli	Javakhk mountain range	3157
Gogi	Vayk mountain range	3113
Tej ler	Pambak mountain range	3101
Mets Eghnakhagh	Eghnakhagh mountain range	3042
Bovakar	Halab mountain range	3016
Urasar	Bazum mountain range	2993
Miapor	Miapor mountain range	2993
Qashatagh	Sevan mountain range	2901
Aray ler	Aray massif	2577

Armenia is a mountainous country. 76.5% of the republican territory is on the height of 1000-2.500 m above sea level. Mountain ranges occupy about 14 ths. km² territory or 47% of the country's total surface. Plateaus comprise more than 1/3 (11 ths. km²) of country's surface. Armenia's territory is an original geological museum. Here it is possible to find out those rocks that comprise the earth-crust. More than 60% of the territory is covered by stratum of different type volcanic rock and tufa. Armenia's lithosphere is rich with various useful minerals. As a result of volcanic eruptions, a big reserve of natural building materials - tufa, basalt, andezite, perlite and other materials has been formed that is used in construction.

RIVERS

River name	Where flows	Length, km	Water collection surface, km ²	Total abatement, m	Average annual flow, m ³ /sec	Flow module, l/sec per 1 km ²	Average multi-year annual flow, mln.m ³
Chambak	Debed	86	1380	940	7.97	7.97	368.6
Dzoraget	Debed	67	1460	1390	11.5	11.5	529.2
Debed	Khram	176	4050 ¹	565	8.84	8.84	1128
Aghstev	Kur	133	1610 ¹	2770	6.83	6.83	346.5
Akhurayan	Araks	186	3602 ¹	1070	9.08	9.08	1030
Sevjur	Araks	38	3540	27	9.38	9.38	1046
Qasagh	Sevjur	89	1020	1370	9.03	9.03	290.1
Hrazdan	Araks	141	2310	1090	9.70	9.70	705.6
Dzknaget	Sevan lake	22	90	400	8.08	8.08	34.6
Masrik	Sevan lake	43	753	970	5.38	5.38	127.6
Vardenis	Sevan lake	28	116	1240	15.3	15.3	56.1
Argichi	Sevan lake	51	384	620	14.3	14.3	172.9
Gavaraget	Sevan lake	40	467	1370	7.94	7.94	116.8
Azat	Araks	56	547	2285	11.1	11.1	192.5
Vedi	Araks	58	701	1910	2.64	2.64	58.3
Arpa	Araks	128	2175 ¹	2670	10.1	10.1	689.8
Meghriget	Araks	35	336	1800	8.33	8.33	88.2
Voghji	Araks	86	933	3610	11.1	11.1	327.6
Vorotan	Araks	178	2180 ¹	2775	10.0	10.0	689.8
Araks	Kur	1050	101900	3295	-	-	-



Debed river and Sanahin bridge

Republican water reserves are limited and annually comprise totally 8.5 bil.m³, of which 6.54 - surface water flow. Armenia's rivers are mainly mountainous with strongly expressed flows with little water.

¹ Data are restricted by part of coverage within Armenia's borders.

LAKES

	Level mark, m	Volume	Mirror surface, km ²
Sevan	1896	33.2 km ³	1239.0
Arpi	1480	50.0 mln. m ³	4.5
Sev	2708	9.0 mln. m ³	2.0
Ayghr	853	310 ths. m ³	0.07
Qari	3190	357 ths. m ³	0.12
Kaputan	3299	1.5 mln. m ³	0.1
Akna	3038	2.5 mln. m ³	0.8

Lakes and reservoirs with sweet test are situated in the RA territory with about 35.8 bil.km³ total volumes. 95.5% of that volume comprises one of the world highest mountain lakes – Sevan that is situated at the height of 1916 m (till abatement) above sea level. Its water reserves now comprise about 34.2 bil.m³.

Sevan is adornment of nature of the Republic of Armenia (the ancient name is Geghama sea). The legend is connected it to the son of Amasia king – general Gegham. The water mirror surface of Mets Sevan is 972 km², the utmost depth is 46 m, for Pokr Sevan correspondingly - 284 km² and 80 m. 20 rivers and small rivers flow in Sevan lake, only Hrazdan river originates from the lake.

Sevan has strongly suffered from thriftless and neglected use and its water reserves have been considerably decreased. Sewages flowing in lake are not enough cleaned, also as a result of lowering of the lake level the water quality sharply has become worse as well. With a purpose to partly soften the negative consequences, the Arpa-Sevan tunnel with the length of 48 km 420 m (the utmost depth above land level is 1230 m) has been turned over for operation in 1981 and an attempt was made to increase the Sevan lake water reserves with Arpa river waters. The tunnel is connected with the lake through the open channel with the length of 850 m.



Sevan Lake

**VOLUMES OF ARTIFICIAL RESERVOIRES
AND WATER MIRROR SURFACE**

	Volume, mln. m ³	Mirror surface, ha
Akhuryan	525	4180
Azat	70	285
Aparan	91	735
Spandaryan	257	1025
Tolors	96.8	480
Kechut	25	135
Hakhum	12	83
Qarahunj	1.27	18.3
Shamb	13.6	112
Mantash	8.2	76.4
Karnut	24.7	234
Sarnaghbyur	4.85	56
Joghaz	45	230
Her-Her	26	115
Tavshut	6	60
Sevaderd	6	45
Halavar	5.5	38
David Bek	2.5	14
Tavush	5.28	40
Vardakar	5	86
Metsavarn	5.4	330
Artsvashen	2.03	26
Geghardalich	1.52	25
Tsilkar	1.2	26
Hatsashen	1.11	37
Akhpara	5.6	170
Yerevanyan	4.8	95
Geghi	15	35
Aknalich	3.91	53