

## ARMENIA

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Country name in English (PCGN recommended name)               | Armenia  |
| Country name in Armenian (romanized in brackets) <sup>1</sup> | Հայաստան (Hayastan)                                  |
| State title in English (PCGN recommended name)                | Republic of Armenia                                  |
| State title in Armenian                                       | Հայաստանի Հանրապետություն (Hayastani Hanrapetut'yun) |
| Official language   | Armenian (hye) <sup>2</sup>                          |
| Script  | Armenian   |
| ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)                               | AM/ARM   |
| Capital   | Yerevan  |
| Capital in Armenian   | Երևան  |
| Population  | 2,965,100 <sup>3</sup>                               |

### Introduction

Armenia is a landlocked country in Transcaucasia<sup>4</sup> (see map on next page). Until September 1991, Armenia was one of the fifteen Soviet republics incorporated into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The disputed territory of Nagornyy Karabakh in western Azerbaijan is a predominantly Armenian-populated breakaway “republic”, internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan.

### Geographical names policy

Geographical names should be taken from official Armenian-script sources produced by the Centre of Geodesy & Cartography (Geodeziayi ev Kartezagrut' yan Kentron), and romanized as per the [BGN/PCGN 1981 Romanization System for Armenian](#)<sup>5</sup>. It should be noted that some unofficial sources may contain names in other languages e.g. Russian or Azerbaijani and these names should not be used. Although there might be Armenian names for places in Nagornyy Karabakh, it is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, therefore PCGN recommends using the names as found on official Azerbaijani sources. The NGA Geonames Database may be used <http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/index.html> as a source for names in Armenia.

<sup>1</sup> Using the BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Armenian 1981: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/810208/ROMANIZATION\\_OF\\_ARMENIAN.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810208/ROMANIZATION_OF_ARMENIAN.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> ISO 639-3 codes are given for languages mentioned in this Fact File.

<sup>3</sup> As of January 1, 2019, <http://www.gov.am/en/demographics/>

<sup>4</sup> Also known as Southern Caucasia, it is a region to the south of the Caucasus mountains situated between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea consisting of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

<sup>5</sup> The ISO 9985: 1996(E) transliteration system for Armenian should not be used as it has some differences to the BGN/PCGN 1981 Romanization System for Armenian.



Map of Armenia and surrounding countries, including enclaves, exclaves and the disputed territory of Nagornyy Karabakh.

### Language/s

Armenian is the official language of Armenia<sup>6</sup>. It belongs to its own independent branch of the Indo-European group of languages, which includes all Latin, Germanic, Indian, Slavic and Hellenic languages among others. It is also spoken in the de facto, though unrecognized, independent republic of Nagornyy Karabakh that is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan. There are two dialects of Armenian language: Eastern Armenian (hye) and Western Armenian (hyw). For most Armenians, the dialects are not mutually intelligible. Eastern Armenian is the most commonly-spoken language in Armenia (by 2.9 million people<sup>7</sup>) and underwent an orthographic reform during Soviet times making it further different to Western Armenian. The orthographic reform of the Armenian alphabet Western Armenian is spoken in small parts of Armenia, but is mostly spoken by the Armenian diaspora in places such as Turkey, Lebanon, United States, Georgia, Syria, Iraq, Uzbekistan and France (total number of speakers is about 1.2 million<sup>8</sup>). Kurdish is spoken by the Yezidi minority and Russian is still widely spoken.

The Armenian alphabet was created by the scholar and monk Mesrop Mashtots in 405AD.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.president.am/en/constitution-2015/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ethnologue.com/language/hye>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ethnologue.com/language/hyw>

**Inventory of characters (and their Unicode encodings<sup>9</sup>):**

The BGN/PCGN Romanization system for Armenian<sup>10</sup> contains the basic Roman letters plus ' (a right single quotation mark, Unicode 2019) that is transcribed after the letters թ = t' , չ = ch' , ց = ts' , փ = p' , ք = k' to represent aspirated<sup>11</sup> consonants.

**Administrative structure**

Armenia is divided into 11 first-order administrative divisions (ADM1s): the capital region (Armenian: *k'aghak'*) Yerevan, plus 10 districts (Armenian: *marz*, plural: *marzan*). The districts are further sub-divided into urban and rural communities. In the Armenian language, when generics are added to placenames, another letter ի (i) is added to the proper name to demonstrate the possessive form e.g. Aragatsotn becomes Aragatsotni Marz.

**1. Aragatsotn (40° 25' 00" N 044° 10' 00" E)**

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Name in Armenian Script           | Արագածոտն   |
| Long form name                    | Aragatsotni Marz  |
| Long form name in Armenian Script | Արագածոտնի Մարզ   |
| ISO 3166-2 code                   | AM-AG   |
| Variant Name(s)                   | Aragatzotn  |
| Centre                            | Ashtarak (40° 17' 57" N 044° 21' 43" E)                             |
| Centre in Armenian Script         | Աշտարակ   |
| Website                           | <a href="http://aragatsotn.mtad.am/">http://aragatsotn.mtad.am/</a> |

**2. Ararat (39° 55' 00" N 044° 50' 00" E)**

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Name in Armenian Script           | Արարատ  |
| Long form name                    | Ararati Marz  |
| Long form name in Armenian Script | Արարատի Մարզ  |
| ISO 3166-2 code                   | AM-AR   |
| Centre                            | Artashat (39° 57' 41" N 044° 32' 40" E)                     |
| Centre in Armenian Script         | Արտաշատ   |
| Website                           | <a href="http://ararat.mtad.am/">http://ararat.mtad.am/</a> |

**3. Armavir (40° 07' 00" N 044° 00' 00" E)**

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Name in Armenian Script           | Արմավիր   |
| Long form name                    | Armaviri Marz   |
| Long form name in Armenian Script | Արմավիրի Մարզ   |
| ISO 3166-2 code                   | AM-AV   |
| Centre                            | Armavir (40° 09' 16" N 044° 02' 17" E)                        |
| Centre in Armenian Script         | Արմավիր   |
| Website                           | <a href="http://armavir.mtad.am/">http://armavir.mtad.am/</a> |

**4. Geghark'unik' (40° 15' 00" N 045° 25' 00" E)**

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Name in Armenian Script           | Գեղարքունիք   |
| Long form name                    | Geghark'unik'i Marz   |
| Long form name in Armenian Script | Գեղարքունիքի Մարզ   |
| ISO 3166-2 code                   | AM-GR   |
| Centre                            | Gavarr (40° 21' 14" N 045° 07' 26" E)                                 |
| Centre in Armenian Script         | Գավառ   |
| Website                           | <a href="http://gegharkunik.mtad.am/">http://gegharkunik.mtad.am/</a> |

<sup>9</sup> See [www.unicode.org](http://www.unicode.org)

<sup>10</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/810208/ROMANIZATION\\_OF\\_ARMENIAN.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810208/ROMANIZATION_OF_ARMENIAN.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> An aspirated consonant is accompanied by a strong burst of air as you say it.

**5. Kotayk' (40° 25' 00" N 044° 45' 00" E)**

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Name in Armenian Script           | Կոտայք  |
| Long form name                    | Kotayk'i Marz   |
| Long form name in Armenian Script | Կոտայքի Մարզ  |
| ISO 3166-2 code                   | AM-KT   |
| Centre                            | Hrazdan (40° 29' 39" N 044° 45' 37" E)                      |
| Centre in Armenian Script         | Հրազդան   |
| Website                           | <a href="http://kotayk.mtad.am/">http://kotayk.mtad.am/</a> |

**6. Lorri (41° 00' 00" N 044° 30' 00" E)**

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Name in Armenian Script           | Լորի  |
| Long form name                    | Lorru Marz  |
| Long form name in Armenian Script | Լորու Մարզ  |
| ISO 3166-2 code                   | AM-LO   |
| Centre                            | Vanadzor (40° 48' 16" N 044° 29' 38" E)                 |
| Centre in Armenian Script         | Վանաձոր   |
| Website                           | <a href="http://lori.mtad.am/">http://lori.mtad.am/</a> |

**7. Shirak (40° 45' 00" N 043° 50' 00" E)**

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Name in Armenian Script           | Շիրակ   |
| Long form name                    | Shiraki Marz  |
| Long form name in Armenian Script | Շիրակի Մարզ   |
| ISO 3166-2 code                   | AM-SH   |
| Centre                            | Gyumri (40° 47' 39" N 043° 50' 43" E)                       |
| Centre in Armenian Script         | Գյումրի   |
| Website                           | <a href="http://shirak.mtad.am/">http://shirak.mtad.am/</a> |

**8. Syunik' (39° 20' 00" N 046° 15' 00" E)**

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Name in Armenian Script           | Սյունիք   |
| Long form name                    | Syunik'i Marz   |
| Long form name in Armenian Script | Սյունիքի Մարզ   |
| ISO 3166-2 code                   | AM-SU   |
| Centre                            | Kapan (39° 12' 27" N 046° 24' 21" E)                      |
| Centre in Armenian Script         | Կապան   |
| Website                           | <a href="http://syunik.mtad.am">http://syunik.mtad.am</a> |

**9. Tavush (40° 55' 00" N 045° 10' 00" E)**

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Name in Armenian Script           | Տավուշ  |
| Long form name                    | Tavushi Marz  |
| Long form name in Armenian Script | Տավուշի Մարզ  |
| ISO 3166-2 code                   | AM-TV   |
| Centre                            | Ijevan (40° 52' 44" N 045° 08' 55" E)                       |
| Centre in Armenian Script         | Իջևան   |
| Website                           | <a href="http://tavush.mtad.am/">http://tavush.mtad.am/</a> |

**10. Vayots' Dzor (39° 45' 00" N 045° 25' 00" E)**

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Name in Armenian Script           | Վայոց Ձոր   |
| Long form name                    | Vayots' Dzori Marz                                      |
| Long form name in Armenian Script | Վայոց Ձորի Մարզ   |
| ISO 3166-2 code                   | AM-VD   |
| Centre                            | Yeghegnadzor (39° 45' 50" N 045° 19' 57" E)             |
| Centre in Armenian Script         | Եղեգնաձոր   |
| Website                           | <a href="http://vdzor.mtad.am">http://vdzor.mtad.am</a> |

**11. Yerevan** ((40° 11' 00" N 044° 30' 00" E)

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Name in Armenian Script           | Երեվան  |
| Long form name                    | K'aghak' Yerevan  |
| Long form name in Armenian Script | Քաղաք Երեվան  |
| ISO 3166-2 code                   | AM-ER   |
| Variant Name(s)                   | Gorod Yerevan   |
| Centre                            | Yerevan (40° 10' 52" N 044° 30' 49" E)                    |
| Centre in Armenian Script         | Երևան   |
| Website                           | <a href="http://www.yerevan.am">http://www.yerevan.am</a> |

**Territorial and toponymic issues**

**Nagornyy Karabakh**

The disputed territory of Nagornyy Karabakh (or Nagorno-Karabakh Republic) in western Azerbaijan (known as Artsakh in Armenia), is a predominantly Armenian-populated breakaway “republic”, internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan. The Azeri translation is Dağlıq Qarabağ, the Armenian translation is Lerrnayin Gharabagh. Nagornyy Karabakh covers a similar area to the former Soviet-established Nagorno-Karabakhskaya Avtonomnaya Oblast’ plus several additional districts, and it is this name that is used as the basis for the name recommended for use on HMG products: **Nagornyy Karabakh**.

The centre of Nagornyy Karabakh is Xankəndi, although the Armenian population use the Armenian name Stepanakert. Though there might be Armenian names for geographical places in Nagornyy Karabakh, it is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, therefore PCGN recommends using the names as found on official Azerbaijani sources.

**Exclaves**

**Kərki** (renamed Tigranashen by the Armenian government) is an exclave of Naxçıvan, outside of its northern border, that it is controlled by Armenia.

**Yuxarı Əskipara** (Armenian: Verin Voskepar) is an exclave of Azerbaijan within Armenia. The village has been destroyed, and is administered by Armenia.

**Sofulu** and **Barxudarli** are exclaves of Azerbaijan within Armenia. They are mostly inhabited by Armenians and administered by Armenia.

**Artsvashen** is an exclave of Armenia which has been occupied by Azerbaijan since 1992. The Azerbaijani name is Başkənd. Mostly populated by Azeris.

There are two small farms south of Yaradullu (in northwest Azerbaijan). It is assumed that Armenia controls them and that Azerbaijan claims them.

**Other Significant Locations**

| PCGN Approved Name   | Variant Names/Spellings                   | Location                         | Feature Type |
|--|---|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Armenia: Arak's (Aras)<br>Azerbaijan: Araz (Aras) <sup>12</sup><br>Turkey: Aras<br>Iran: Rūd-e Aras (Aras) | Araks, Arax, Erez                         | 40° 01' 04" N,<br>048° 27' 12" E | River        |
| Sevan  | Sevana Lich (Armenian)                    | 40° 23' 19" N,<br>045° 19' 47" E | Lake         |
| Caucasus   | Kovkas (Armenian)<br>Qafqaz (Azerbaijani) | 42° 00' 00" N,<br>045° 00' 00" E | Region       |
| Caucasus   | Böyük Qafqaz (Azerbaijani)                | 43° 20' 00" N,<br>042° 26' 00" E | Mountains    |

**Useful references**

US Board on Geographic Names GEOnet Names Server: <http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/>

US Board on Geographic Names Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Armenia:  
[http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/Policies/Armenia\\_Country\\_Policy\\_WebVersion\\_Sept\\_2018.pdf](http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/Policies/Armenia_Country_Policy_WebVersion_Sept_2018.pdf)

The Unicode Consortium: [www.unicode.org](http://www.unicode.org)

International Organization for Standardization (ISO): [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

Languages: [www.ethnologue.com](http://www.ethnologue.com) , [www.omniglot.com](http://www.omniglot.com)

Administrative divisions: <http://www.statoids.com>

BBC Country Profile: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17043424>

CIA World Factbook – Azerbaijan: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/aj.html>

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<sup>12</sup> Araz river flows along the between Turkey and the Naxçıvan area of Azerbaijan and then through Azerbaijan to the Kura river.