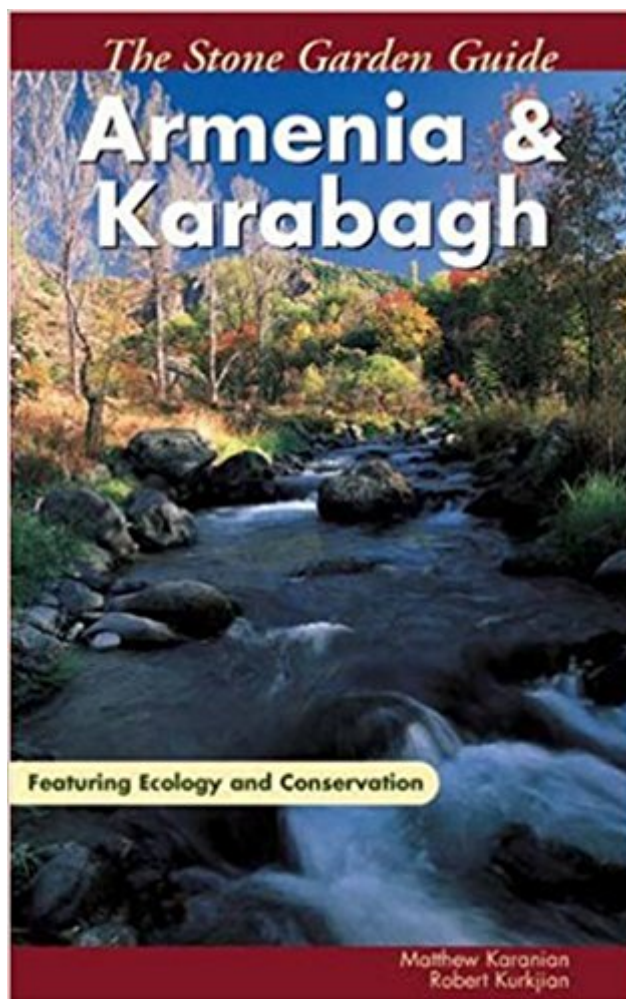


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# The Stone Garden Guide: Armenia And Karabagh



## Synopsis

This book from Stone Garden Guides is unique as the largest and most colorful guidebook available for Armenia and Karabagh. Its 304 pages are filled with 75 vibrant color photographs, and 25 detailed color maps. This is also the only travel book on Armenia that is truly an "insider's guide." This is because its authors, Matthew Karanian and Robert Kurkjian, have each lived, worked, and traveled throughout the region for a decade. The text, which is written in a conversational tone that's easy to read, is also comprehensive and filled with the wisdom of travelers who are as comfortable in Armenia as they are when traveling back home in the US. Visitors will find that this book is essential gear when traveling throughout Armenia and Karabagh, in the villages as well as in the cities. This guide will help travelers make the best choices when deciding where to go, what to see, and where to eat and sleep. Short term visitors who don't speak Armenian will be able to communicate with the assistance of the glossary of phrases. Travelers who have never been to Armenia, and also those who have made a dozen trips, will find the information about the country's historic sites to be equally fascinating and readable. Nature and conservation are also featured prominently. The book's beautiful photography and intriguing background information makes this a book for armchair travelers, too. In addition to being a valuable field guide for seasoned travelers it is also an ideal introduction to the region with lots of intriguing facts and interesting anecdotes about the land and people. This quality paperback has a durable binding and is a standard 5 x 8 inches to easily fit into your backpack while you're traveling. Detailed and full color maps, prepared by the American University of Armenia, cover every region of Armenia. Accurate street maps are included for every major city and town. Color tabs make it easy to locate information in any of the book's ten chapters.

## Book Information

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> Armenia

## Customer Reviews

Authoritative and informative, written by authors who have intelligent and observant eyes. Their photos are exquisite, their research is meticulous. -- Yerevan Times (Armenia), September 24, 2004  
This is the definitive and off-the-beaten-track experience! -- Outpost Magazine (Canada) July, 2004  
This well-researched and illustrated volume is a must for anyone considering a trip to the region. -- Armenian Mirror-Spectator (US), September 10, 2004  
Well researched and incredibly informative, this guide is a must for anyone considering a trip to the region. -- Adventure Magazine (UK), July, 2004

Stone Garden Productions made history in June 2001 when it published the first English-language stand-alone guidebook for Armenia and Karabagh. That book, "Edge of Time: Traveling in Armenia and Karabagh," sold out within a year and a revised second edition was rushed into print in 2002. Stone Garden has built upon this proud legacy with its publication in 2004 of "The Stone Garden Guide: Armenia and Karabagh." As a small, independent publishing company, we take great pride in our work, and we are truly proud of this fine book about Armenia and Karabagh.

This is a short and condensed history book that every serious traveler should own--highly recommended!

good quality

I haven't finished reading all sections of this travel guide yet, but I can say confidently that this is a very helpful, succinct, and insightful guide. (I think that an excellent travel guide should be very enjoyable to read cover to cover, but one sign of an expertly written guide is that it delivers meaningful info even when read in snippets only.) The writing is very straight-forward, jargon-free, and easy-to-understand. I've been also impressed with all the detailed info such as how to make phone calls, where to wash your laundry, which bus or train to take to go from point A to point B, how to deal with the local culture, etc. One thing I did not expect to see from a travel guide to Armenia was the in-depth discussion of the environmental concerns and issues bound to arise during a trip to this neglected land. It was good to hear that there are many out there who are paying attention to improving Armenia's environment, and to learn how even those of us who are not as

conscious and committed can contribute to preserving this precious heritage. This guide will be most helpful to those who have only a minimum of knowledge about Armenian culture, history, language, etc. The authors have thought of everything one would need to enjoy the trip to its maximum. In my case, although my planned trip to Armenia will be my first ever, I am not overly concerned about how I'll manage since I speak Armenian and feel confident I could get around fairly easily.

Nevertheless, the info in this guide makes me feel I could pretend I've been there and done that many times before! Another important point for those who, like me, will do brief and hasty trips only and will not fully explore this tiny land before your retirement, is that reading this book makes you feel you have a good feel for how life is in the out of the way spots. You will become an armchair expert on Armenia's flora and fauna, the topography, the local habits, etc. Finally, one point I really found neat was the description of the B+B scene. Not only did I learn that Ottawa's own Antoine and Sheila Terjanian operate a cozy B+B an hour's drive south-east of Yerevan, which I hope to visit, but it was reassuring to know that there are a few simple alternatives for those who are seeking a more intimate setting for their sejour. Overall, I think this guide is a great read and can help plan your trip with minimum fuss and worry.

My husband and I took our second trip to Armenia in November, and we used this book extensively. The book was absolutely marvelous! We carried it everywhere and we would have missed out on so so much if we didn't have it. The photos were wonderful, and helped us decide where to visit. The information was quite comprehensive and the book actually suggested skipping some sites, which I found quite refreshingly candid. The coverage for the far south of the country, near the Iran border, was rather thin. But they made up for it by covering Karabagh very thoroughly (this was our first time in Karabagh). I would definitely recommend it.

I hadn't planned on buying another Armenia & Karabakh travel book, since I've been to these two wonderful countries before, but as I was leafing through the "Armenia and Karabagh" guide (looking for a particular piece of information), I realized how much knowledge this book contained that was different from other guidebooks, such as the "Lonely Planet: Georgia, Armenia & Azerbaijan" guide or the "Armenia (with Nagorno Karabagh): The Bradt Travel Guide." So I broke down and bought it! The Nagorno Karabakh section looks very good in this one. Such a wonderful little land, full of ancient Armenian monuments, incredible vistas and truly amazing people. I really appreciate the perspective of the authors, who have written a text for people who are somewhat environmental-conscious and perhaps looking for some experiences that may be slightly off the

beaten path. I particularly like the book's organization, impressive photos and the authors' practical insights. I like it when guidebook authors actually offer opinions and don't just list information that may turn out to be a poor choice. Well done!

There's very little available to guide travelers who wish to explore Armenia and Karabagh, making The Stone Garden Guide Armenia & Karabagh unique. Now consider the authors are two experts who have each spent a decade traveling the area and you realize you have a gem in hand for any bound for Armenia. Maps and color photos are literally on every page. In-depth discussions of health, water quality, nature and conservation provide a focus most tourist guides only pass over briefly. And tips from tour operators to sights make for an exciting guide indeed: very highly recommended for any comprehensive travel library as something very different from the norm.

This book is tremendous. It has extremely detailed history sections which provide an excellent overview of Armenia and Karabagh. The photos are worthy of being framed. It also provides good cultural explanations for an area that needs much clarification. It is very easy to navigate and has a detailed Armenian language guide for those of us who are Armenian clueless. The Karabagh section is excellent and details the complicated conflict. It's a must buy for a trip to Armenia and Karabagh.

I volunteered in Armenia for two months and this book was an indispensable guide throughout my time in Yerevan and beyond. The photos are beautiful and the writing is excellent. I am looking forward to an updated version that includes sights from historical Armenia. Please don't be discouraged by those who have given the book poor reviews. They are looking at the book in a political context rather than as a guide book.

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