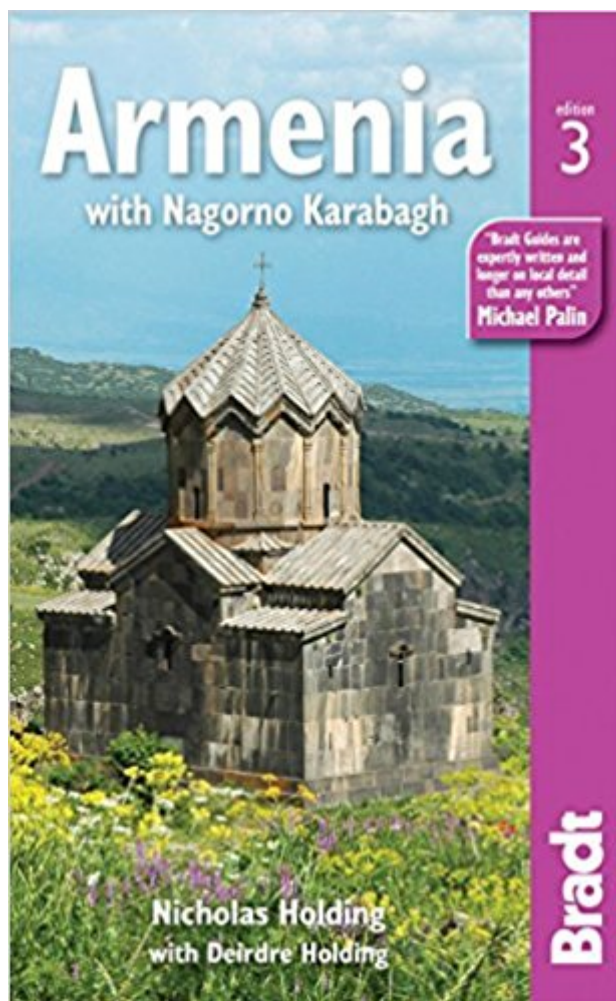


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Armenia, 3rd: The Bradt Travel Guide



Synopsis

Armenia is in many ways an enigma: a strongly Christian country yet ruled for most of the last 2,000 years by outsiders who were not Christian; a country where the symbol of Mount Ararat is omnipresent even though the biblical mountain is now in Turkey; a country where the cooking is Middle Eastern but the street life southern European. Bradt's Armenia guides you to the country's many monasteries, Selim caravanserai, the field of 900 intricately carved cross-stones at Noratus, the petro glyphs of Mount Ishkhanasar and the museums and markets of Yerevan. There is extensive information about natural history and the arts as well all the practical information needed to explore this fascinating country.Â

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Customer Reviews

‘An engaging and detailed book that contains a wealth of information.â™ Times Educational SupplementÂ ‘Clear and comprehensive guide. Holding is knowledgeable and above all engagingâ™ The Times Literary Supplement

Armenia is an enigmatic country steeped in history and legend. Gaze upon snow-capped mountains and banks of colorful flowers, marvel at ancient churches and fortresses perched above deep river gorges, and search for monasteries hidden in wooded valleys. Enjoy highlights including Selim caravanserai and the field of 900 intricately carved cross-stones at Noratus.Â In this fully updated second edition, Nicholas Holding leads you from Armenia's capital to out-of-the-way sights. For detailed history and thorough practical information, Bradt's Armenia is indispensable.Â *Walking

tours--city strolls to mountain treksÂ *Exquisite stone carvings and medieval monasteriesÂ *The capital, Yerevan--museums, markets and moreÂ *National parks and wildlifeÂ *The territory of Nagorno KarabaghÂ *Useful words and phrases --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I recently moved to Armenia and purchased this book right before leaving the USA. My interest was mainly to use it to find neat places to go in the countryside, and this book definitely fills that purpose. We live in Yerevan, the capital, which is fairly well documented by the book. Our second weekend in the country we decided to travel up one of the nearby mountains - wife and three young children - to go sledding in April - and not speaking ANY Armenian yet. All we had to go on was the region map on page 106 and the narrative description on the authors travels. We made it to our destination (and two meter deep snow) easily. Just this past weekend we used the book again to visit an old (1000AD) castle ruins and some monestaries hidden in the forests of the Lori region. The narrative in the book was once again precise in all details - our only issue was when we encountered a newly paved road that was described as being in poor condition in the book (time has passed since the writting). I specially commend the book for those interested in getting out and around to the more remote areas. The book would be considerably better with maps of every town that the main roads turn in and color pictures mixed in with the text (right now the pictures are all at the center of the book). Yerevan itself is changing rapidly and may not be quite as described, but the countryside is almost identical to when the author visited.

Just Awesome, is full of small details that will make your trip to Armenian and Nagorno Karabagh a Dream come true

This is a good book to have if you are visiting Armenia for the first time, so, you get a sense of what everything is and where to go. Compared to some guides about Europe, it lacks the picture/entertaining part. Usually, people see pictures, are attracted to what they see, and therefore decide to visit that particular location. However, lack of pictures only gives history and people may miss out on some great location, city, monument or achitecture because they may not feel moved by only its history. Overall a good book to have, it can be better though.

I have had this book when traveling in Armenia in June 2010. After having precise and clever Bradt guide in Etiopia I assumed that the editor guarantees the quality. Unfortunately not in this case.

There is no question that the book is written with love for country described, its People, customs and culture. Another fine point is very detailed description of the churches and monasteries to be visited in Armenia. However Armenia is really a wonderful country, and it is much more than churches. Here guide misses the point - it properly presents limited possibilities of accommodation in smaller towns, however there are lots of nice places to stay outside Yerevan, which are nonexistent in the guide. Book is focused on travel in rented car, describing in detail when and where to turn. However with so cheap hire of car and driver, such description is not as necessary as precise information of possibilities to visit nice places, when one already arrived to destination. I mean nature wonders of Armenia (and most of so precisely described churches ...), which has to be reached by foot. Such information in the guide is very unprecise and often misleading (f.e. mountains and monasteries around Dilijan, mountains, castles and monasteries around Yeghanodzor). If we have had worse weather, we could have big problems caused by wrong directions ... The author seems to underestimate southern Armenia (again Yeghanodzor) and seems that he is not a fan of hiking. Description of hiking possibilities in Pambak mountains or Iljevan mountains is very misleading, as overall impression of what is on offer there (there is much, however one has to be prepared for some nuances not foreseen in the guide). Not mentioning such niceties as permanent presence of venomous snakes in the south (1,0 - 1,5 m long, however not very aggressive), what makes long mountain boots a must there. Information about public transport (really well developed) is also almost nonexistent in the guide. And why the author forgotten to write about some very probably satanic features of more remote monasteries? Finding them out (when using Armenian magazine devoted to the topic) was exciting - much better than Da Vinci Code. Taking into account qualities of described Bradt as of Lonely Planet guide, somebody has to write a new, good guide to Armenia. This wonderful country deserves it!

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