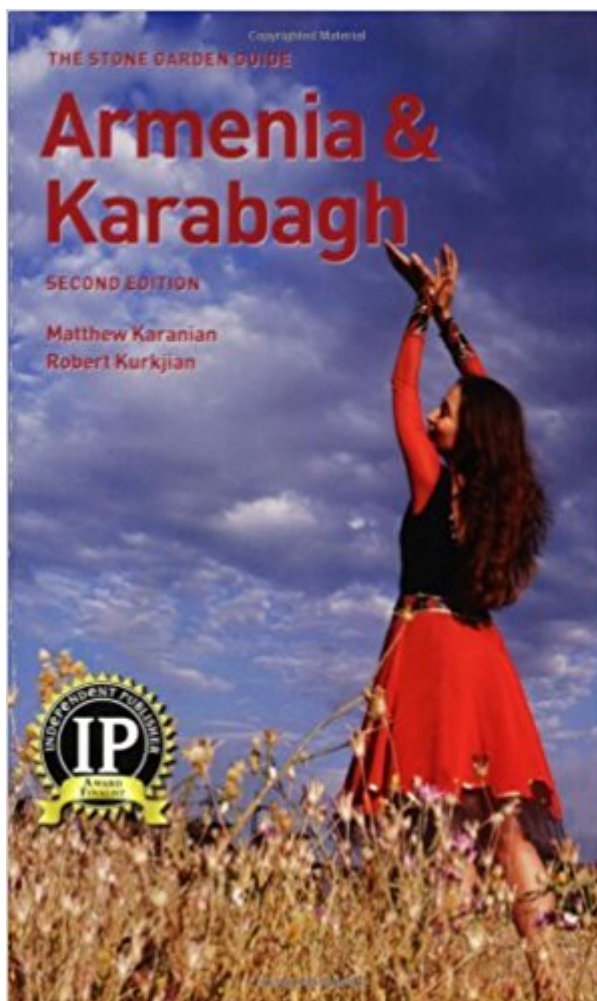


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# Armenia & Karabagh (The Stone Garden Guide)



## Synopsis

Book by Matthew Karanian, Robert Kurkjian

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An excellent guide to a fascinating region, written with real passion for the subject. --CNN Traveller Magazine (UK), September 2006  
A top guidebook. --The Washington Times, September 2006  
A fascinating and educational overview of Armenia and Karabagh. This book is an ideal companion for any traveler. --Sherry Schwarz, Editor, Transitions Abroad Magazine

Matthew Karanian has been working and traveling in Armenia since 1995, as a photographer and journalist, and as a law professor at the American University of Armenia. Robert Kurkjian has lived, worked and traveled extensively throughout Armenia since 1995, as a photojournalist and as a professor of environmental science at the American University of Armenia. Matthew and Robert are also co-authors of "Out of Stone" and "Edge of Time: Traveling in Armenia and Karabagh." Their photography and writing have been published in quality magazines in the US, UK, and Canada.

Reading the book and seeing the colourful photographs are entertaining in this book. It is commendable that the author of the book undertook the mission to write the book and have it published where other major publishers such as Lonely Planet and Fodor's Guide have ignored the cultural and touristic significance of Armenia 24 years after independence from the USSR.. The guide book is satisfactory, but has some flaws in its content - it delves too deep in the sights and attractions of the capital Yerevan while very briefly going over other areas of the Armenian

provinces and countryside and falls far short of being a travel guide for Nagorno Karabagh; my conviction is that Nagorno Karabagh as an independent Armenian mini-republic should have its own travel book not combined with Republic of Armenia. Otherwise the book is worth buying.

Absolutely enjoyed the book.

Purchased this book for my Armenian mother's birthday after hearing a Podcast by Rick Steves. Rick interviewed one of the authors and I was really inspired to get this book and travel! From the interview, sounds like a very approachable country. Author has also done great photography in another book, which is a must-have.

I purchased this as part of planning my trip to Armenia. It was ok.

Our annual family summer trip was a trip down memory lane but Armenia had changed so much. My last visit 1978, my mother 1938, my father 1991. Now we are a family of 10 introducing our children to their homeland. I am so happy, out of all the tour guides we choose The Stone Garden guide. Having traveled by back pack in my younger days I really enjoyed simple, honest, down to earth opinions and practical suggestions to out of the ordinary destinations. The conversational style of writing was easy to follow and filled with great reflections upon the current enviromental issues, regarding waterways, birds, flowers and especially the delicate aspects of the unprotected churches, caves and historical stone crosses. Each section is filled with travel neccesities along with historical, references to biblical events. Our planning was so smooth, we bought 4 books one for each family and clearly mapped out our day trips with great accuracy and alot of happy, energy contagious from the writers. As we read out loud to our parents, my dad proclaimed, "This book is so good, why do we need a tour guide, just read it as we are driving." Thank you, Matthew & Robert for your years of research, great photographs but mostly for helping us recapture the ancient soul of Armenia

Good to read, and a fine travel companion. Very enjoyable, accurate and a well written, well illustrated, and pocketable book for my upcoming visit to Armenia.

I got this book for our recent trip to Armenia, based on the reviews I saw here. I am extremely disappointed with the book. One of the main problems is that the authors repeatedly left out

important information on the sites listed. For instance, many of the historical churches are given one line of text in the book such as "9th century church with domed frame". But, once at the church and grounds, we read the signs around and realized there was much history at the church included saints martyred and other important events. As a guide to Armenia, the christian culture and shrines and some of the area's best highlights. This guide does a very poor job at highlighting the best this country has to offer.

If you're planning on travelling through Armenia and Karabagh, you must get this book. It's far and away the most comprehensive guide available to the region. The authors leave practically no corner uncovered, and the listings are excellent. A few serious caveats, though. 1) It is assumed that you will either drive or take taxis practically EVERYWHERE. There is very little information on public transport, either within the cities or between. 2) There is absolutely NOTHING about vegetarian food. I don't think I've seen a guidebook this size in 20 years that so thoroughly ignores the subject. 3) It is inappropriately political in spots. For example, the authors mention that it is not possible to cross the border into Nakhichevan. That's useful news. They then go on to tell us what horrible things the Azeris are doing to heritage sites in Nakhichevan. That's irrelevant for the purposes of this book. At another point they advise us that "Azerbaijan is thought to harbour terrorist cells." Again, what on earth does that have to do with travelling through Armenia and Karabagh? The aim is obviously to impress on the reader what a bad bunch of people the Azeris are, but the end result for this reader was to think that I had better not rely on any of the history in this book because it is obviously completely one-sided. (The book's whitewashing of what happened in Aghdam is particularly notable in this regard.) The authors' bias is understandable given their own backgrounds, but they really should have done better to keep it out of the text. If these problems can be corrected for future editions I will happily revise my rating upward.

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