



Discovering the Natural and Cultural Heritage of Future Dilijan Biosphere Reserve

CBD COP17 Excursion | Thursday, 22 October 2026

Organised on the occasion of CBD COP17, this one-day excursion offers participants a first-hand view of the landscapes of the proposed Dilijan Biosphere Reserve. The route leads from **Lake Sevan**, one of the largest high-altitude freshwater lakes in the world, to the mountain forests of **Dilijan National Park**, where Caucasian red deer are being reintroduced, and to the medieval Haghartsin Monastery Complex. Participants will meet national park staff, local producers and municipal representatives, and learn about the ongoing preparation of the area's nomination to the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme.

PROGRAMME

08:30 Departure from Yerevan – from the pick-up point (16 Koryun St., Yerevan)

09:30 Lake Sevan – short stop at the shore of Lake Sevan; group photo

10:50 Haghartsin Monastery – guided tour of the medieval monastery complex; meeting with the local honey producers' association; coffee break

12:20 Caucasian Red Deer Reintroduction Center, Dilijan National Park – presentation by national park representatives on key biodiversity values and the red deer reintroduction programme; short forest walk

13:30 Lunch in Dilijan with representatives of local municipalities and business partners

15:00 Dilijan city park – short walk

15:30 Return to Yerevan – arrival approx. at 17:30

This excursion is organised within the project "Towards the establishment of the Dilijan Biosphere Reserve in Armenia – nomination and enabling framework". The project is funded by the German Federal Environment Ministry's Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union. It is supervised by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the German Environment Agency (UBA). The project is implemented by the Michael Succow Foundation and Soluton in close partnership with the Ministry of Environment of Armenia.



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WEATHER & ELEVATION

The field visit will cover areas at different elevations, from the **Lake Sevan area to Dilijan National Park**.

Elevation along the route: approximately **1,450–1,950 m above sea level**.

October weather can be **cool, rainy and changeable**, with conditions varying between locations.

Participants should be prepared for **cooler temperatures, rain and wind**, particularly during outdoor activities.



WHAT TO WEAR

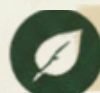
We recommend **warm, layered clothing suitable for changing weather**, together with a **waterproof jacket or raincoat** and **comfortable outdoor shoes** with good grip.



TERRAIN & WALKING

The programme includes outdoor visits and a **short forest walk in Dilijan National Park**.

Some locations may involve **uneven or muddy terrain**, as well as short uphill and downhill sections.



FOOD & DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Refreshments and lunch are included. Vegetarian options will be available.

If you have any **specific dietary requirements, allergies, food intolerances** or other restrictions, please inform the project team **by October 12** so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Participation is by registration; places are limited.

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