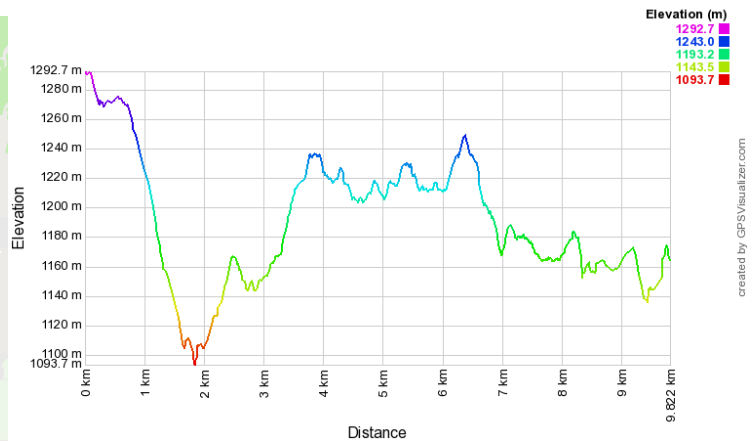
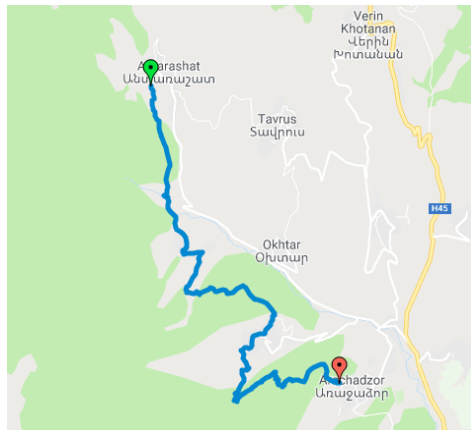


Section Three Antarashat - Arajadzor

Distance 9 km **Time** 3 hours **Difficulty** Easy



General Description In terms of elevation this section of the trail yo-yos up and down, but is a pleasant walk. It begins in cultivated fields just outside of Antarashat, reenters the forest several times before finishing in Arajadzor.



The trail begins where the previous left off: 50 meters up the hill from the outskirts of Antarashat. You turn left down the farmers field and head due south, keeping the village on your left.



As the village begins to fade away into the distance, the path becomes relatively overgrown. It splits several times so keep an eye of for the painted trail markings.



After twenty minutes you pass a dilapidated, abandoned building on your left. Here you turn left onto a main path (not right past the hut pictured above). From this point you will begin to hear the sounds of the river.



The river itself is slightly more difficult to traverse compared to other sections of the trail. It is best crossed by stepping stones on the left. Five meters after the river there is a source for mineral water on the left hand side.



After another thirty minutes in forest you reach another fork in the road. Continue in the same compass direction, careful not to double back on yourself.



Once you reach the village of Vanek with a population of 71, you want to take the path leading to the right, as indicated by a sign. The main path loops round to the right, based some large houses, owned by the Kapan elite. Shortly after exiting the village you reach a wide open field. There are several paths leading in different directions – you want to take the path opposite where you entered the field and from here the trail continues in the forest



As indicated on the map to the right, there is a shaded place suitable for lunch with two large and one small benches. It is also possible to camp here. Space could be found for maximum 10 tents and a central campfire.



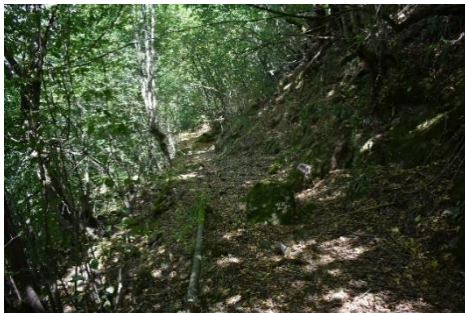
After another 20 minutes you come out of the forest again and see a view of the surrounding mountains. Next on the trail is the village of Dzorastan – one of the few villages in the valley that has active farmers. We hope to establish relationship with them to supply accommodation and organic food to trekkers in the near future.



After the village there is a spot to take on clean water in a small gated section on the right-hand side of the path. The stream can be very slow during summer.



Then go down the hill past some beehives on your left and a great view of the surrounding peaks. Heading down the right, you will see an unfinished structure. At the bottom go over a small stream, as marked by the signs.



Be careful not to lose the trail after reentering the forest because this section is very overgrown. Coming out of the forest you can see Dzorastan to your left. Look out for snakes on this part of the path. Also look out for an additional water source on your right, which is also a suitable place to rest.



After this hike in the forest for another kilometer you reach a dirt road, which is used by off-road cars. After 1km you will see the newly-established terraces of permaculture garden of ARK on your right. Feel free to enter and explore. The trail continues on the left side of the first permaculture terrace into forest and after 300m and you come to the first houses of the Arajadzor village.



Ark operates a volunteering base in the village. Groups of 6+ are welcome to stay but need to inform of their arrival in advance. It is a house with several beds, kitchen, and all amenities. Alternatively, 300meters along the next segment is a good place to use as a camping site. 200m down from the first house of Arajadzor, can find a source of water near the old cemetery. In the house nearest water source, you can ask for Artur and Ella, and buy from them dairy products (milk, eggs and yoghurt).