

Hiking Trail Guide

From Verin Vachagan to Bekh Anapat Monastery

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Total Distance to Bekh Anapat Monastery: 2.33 km (+ 1 km)
Average hike time: 1h 30 minutes (plus another 45 minutes from the village to the starting point of the trail)

Ascent: 266 m

Descent: 138 m

The hike starts above Verin Vachagan. The village is located approximately 5 km south of Kapan on the altitude of about 1200 meters.

To get there either you walk along the road beneath the Vachagan river or more conveniently take a taxi to Verin Vachagan. At the center (/top) of the village, take the road to the right towards Khustup (see picture 1).



From the upper part of the village it will take you about 1 km and about 200 meters ascent to the start of the actual trail. Just stay on the wider gravel road (keep right on the picture).



After about 1 km you can enjoy a wonderful view of Mount Khustup on your left. A small path leaves the gravel road to your right hand side (at 1400 m.a.s.l).



Follow this well prepared path and turn right at the point where you find a water source.

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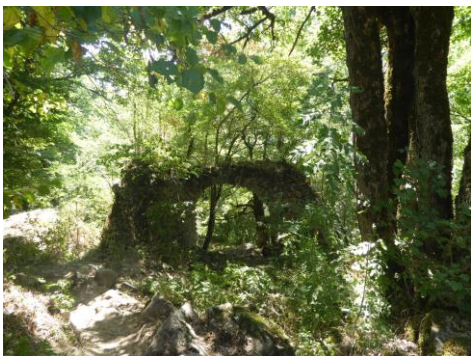
Just after a few meters you see a fenced meadow with a gate. Don't pass the gate but go left along the fence



Follow the path further and turn to the right into forest. Now you have just reached the highest point of the hike (about 1670 m.a.s.l.).



The path through the forest eventually gets a little narrower and wilder.



After walking for about 750 meters down in the forest you will reach your destination - Bekh Anapat Monastery.

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Have a look around the impressive archeological site, have a break or even lunch. Be careful while exploring the ruins as stones can still fall down. The Organization Terre et Culture (<http://www.terreetculture.org>) is working each summer on this site to restore and preserve the cultural heritage of this 10th century monastery.

To go back, either you take the same way back to Verin Vachagan or you can continue the trail and descend to Bekh village (marked path in the opposite direction described on <http://www.arkarmenia.com/bekh-anapat.html>, 553 meters descent, 3.4 km). From the village take the taxi or walk another 4 km back to Kapan. Have fun and enjoy the lovely views!

