

BEST OF ARMENIA TOUR

BROUGHT TO YOU BY VILLAGE TRAVEL AND AVARAYR TOUR COMPANY



TOUR PROGRAM

GUARANTEED DEPARTURE DATES:

JULY 18 - 26, 2008

OCTOBER 10 - 18, 2008



CALL
LISA ANSERLIAN
6 1 7 . 7 3 8 . 5 5 0 0



CALL
VENERA MATEVOSIAN
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TOUR PROGRAM

❖ DAY 1 + 2 :

Depart to Yerevan – Yerevan / Monument of Genocide / Museum of History

Arrive at Zvartnots International airport early in the morning, transfer to the hotel. Accommodation. Yerevan. City tour. State University of Yerevan, Parliament Building. President's Residence, Academy of Sciences, Opera House, Cascade, the statue of Alexander Tamanyan – the architect of Yerevan, Mother Armenia statue. Visit the Monument and Museum of Genocide, situated on the hill of "Tsitsernakaberd". This monument is erected to commemorate the memory of 1,5 million Armenians, massacred by Turks in 1915. Lunch at the local restaurant. Visit State History Museum of Armenia, situated on Republic Square. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Yerevan.

❖ DAY 3 :

Yerevan / Etchmiatsin / Hripsime / Zvartnots / Vernissage

Yerevan. Drive to Echmiadzin town, the center of Armenian Christianity. Etchmiatsin has a unique place in Armenia's heritage. It is an ancient settlement with a history going back to the reign of the King Vagharsh, 117-140AD. Its present name is taken from the legend which tells that the Only Begotten Son, Christ, came down to this site and with his golden hammer showed Grigor Lousavorich (the Illuminator) the place where the first Christian church was to be built. The word itself means "the place, where the only Begotten descended". Thus, Etchmiatsin is the spiritual center of Armenia and all Armenians, the seat of the Catholicos of all Armenians. Visit St. Hripsime church (618) and the Cathedral (303), included in UNESCO World Heritage List. Sunday Mass. On the way back to Yerevan visit Zvartnots temple (643AD), included in UNESCO World Heritage List. Lunch at the restaurant. Vernissage – open –air flea market. Free time for shopping. Dinner at the restaurant. Overnight at the hotel in Yerevan.

❖ DAY 4:

Yerevan / Sanahin / Haghpat / Yerevan

Drive to the North via Spitak and Vanadzor towns. Alaverdi town. The territory where these fine pieces of medieval architecture are situated is famous from the V mil. BC. It was Tashir province of Gougaratz Ashkharh (Arm. word for "world"). The nature is extraordinary here. You can explore high and rugged mountains, deep ravines, lush forests and medieval architectural monuments comfortably fitted into the surroundings and nature. Visit Haghpat monastic ensemble (10-13th cc.), one of the gemstones of this region, included in UNESCO World Heritage List. Lunch at the local restaurant. Visit Sanahin monastic complex (10-13th cc.), included in UNESCO World Heritage List. Sanahin Village is famous as a birthplace of Mikoyan brothers. Photo stop at the House-museum of Mikoyan brothers – Anastas (famous political leader) and Artem (designer of MIG fighter series). Both monastic complexes were great spiritual and cultural centres where many famous Armenian people lived and worked, writing and copying numerous manuscripts, decorated with miniatures. Drive back to Yerevan. Dinner at the restaurant. Overnight at the hotel.



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TOUR PROGRAM CONT.

❖ DAY 5:

Yerevan / Khor Virap / Areni / Noravank / Yerevan

Yerevan. Drive to Ararat region. Visit Khor Virap Monastery (4-17th cc.), where Gregory the Illuminator was imprisoned for 13 years by Armenian king Trdat III. Khor-Virap monastic complex has a special place in the Armenian architectural heritage. It is near Artashat town, which once was one of the twelve capitals of Armenia. Built in the 4-17th cc in the Ararat Valley, Khor Virap monastery has Biblical Ararat in the background. Then continue towards Vayots Dzor region, spread on the banks of the Arpa River. Visit winery in Areni village, tasting of local wine. Drive to Noravank Monastery (12 –14th cc.). The road winds through the gorge, giving you a nice chance to be fascinated by the unrivalled views. Lunch. Visit Noravank Monastery which has a special place in the architectural heritage of Armenia. It was the cultural and spiritual center of historical Syounik region in the 13th c. Constructional, sculptural and ornamental works were realized by the outstanding and skillful masters of the period, such as Siraness and Momik. Return to Yerevan. Dinner at the restaurant. Overnight at the hotel in Yerevan.

❖ DAY 6 :

Yerevan / Sevan / Dilijan / Noraduz / Yerevan

Yerevan. Drive to Gegharkunik region. Sevan Lake, is surely one of Armenia's most idyllic beauty spots. Its viewpoint within the Geghama mountain range is admired and photographed by thousands of visitors each year. Visit the peninsula and Sevanavank Monastery (874). Once an island, the peninsula provides a panoramic view over the lake. The guide's story will take you to the times of the reign of the king Ashot Erkat (Ashot the Iron, 10th c.), adding more charm to your visit. Drive to Tavush region. Dilijan – Armenian Switzerland. Dilijan is a pleasant resort town in the northwest of Yerevan. It expands on terraced hillsides and blends with woods. The Bazum and Pambak mountain ranges embrace the town. Visit Haghartsin monastery (10-13th cc). Located in the dense forest, it is one of Armenia's most evocative sites. Lunch. Drive to Noraduz village and visit the medieval cemetery of khachkars (Cross-Stones), executed in delicate patterns and ornamentation. Words are not enough to describe the skillfulness of the work done and the richness of the ornamentation. Return to Yerevan. Dinner at the restaurant. Overnight at the hotel in Yerevan.

❖ DAY 7:

Yerevan / Ashtarak / Hamberd fortress / Saghmosavank / Yerevan / Parajanov Museum

Drive towards Aragatsozn region. Ashtarak town. Visit Karmravor church (7th c.). Visit Hamberd medieval fortress (10–13th cc). Stop near the “Garden of Stone-letters”. It was erected in 2005, when Armenians were celebrating the 1600th anniversary of the creation of Armenian alphabet. Lunch. Visit Saghmosavank (Psalm monastery) built in 12-13th cc. with wonderful view over the canyon of the river Kasakh. Drive back to Yerevan. Visit the museum of Armenian filmmaker - Sergey Parajanov, famous for its wonderful art and collages. Dinner at the restaurant. Overnight at the hotel.



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TOUR PROGRAM CONT.

❖ DAY 8:

Yerevan / Matenadaran / Garni / Geghard / Yerevan

Yerevan. Visit Matenadaran – institute and museum of medieval manuscripts. Drive to Kotayk region. Visit Garni pagan temple (77AD) with the rampart and other monuments nearby such as the ruins of the palace complex, bathhouse and a V century round church, having a distinguished place in the architectural heritage. The whole complex is erected on a triangular plateau. The Temple, called "the Temple of Sun" is dedicated to the heathen god "Mithra". Lunch. Then continue to Geghard monastery (4-13th cc.), carved in rocks. This spectacular place, included in UNESCO World Heritage List, has its special history. Dating back to the pagan times, this is the place where the Lance, piercing the side of Christ when he was on the cross, was kept. The sound acoustics of the rock-cut halls give an excellent opportunity to many church singers to try their voices here. Return to Yerevan. Parting dinner at the restaurant. Overnight at the hotel in Yerevan.

❖ DAY 9 :

Departure

Transfer to the airport and depart.



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OUR CONDITIONS

❖ WE GUARANTEE DEPARTURE DATES

July 18 - 26, 2008 and October 10 - 18, 2008

❖ ACCOMMODATION:

In Yerevan: 8 nights at the 4* hotel

Prices are based on double occupancy. Single traveller needs to pay single supplement charge.

HOTEL "METROPOL" 4*

Ideally located on Yerevan's most celebrated avenue, Mashtots, the Metropol Hotel stands proud as the most distinguished address. The hotel is located only some 15 minutes from the airport by car (a transfer service can be provided) and is within easy walking distance of all the major features of Yerevan. All 105 rooms are equipped with a luxurious bathroom and feature satellite TV, mini-bar, coffee and tea making facilities, complimentary mineral water, and many other facilities. The fully equipped conference hall can accommodate meetings of up to 100. Internet facilities are provided free of charge in the conference hall. The hotel facilities also include a gym, swimming pool, sauna and an excellent restaurant.

❖ MEALS:

Full Board (from breakfast on Day 2 to dinner on Day 8)

❖ TRANSPORTATION:

Depending on the group size it may be by car, minibus or bus.

❖ GUIDE:

English-speaking guide

❖ PRICES:

1.000 € per person, single supplement – 380 €

Note: Rates in USD will be calculated according to RA Central bank daily (tour request day) EUR / USD exchange rate.

Prices include: Accommodation as mentioned in the program, Transportation, English-speaking guide, FB service, All entrance fees, All local taxes

Prices exclude:

Air ticket, Visa, Insurance, Drinks and Beverages, Departure tax (22 EUR)

❖ VISA:

Tourists can obtain Armenia entry visa either at the local Embassy or Consulate of Armenia or at Zvartnots International airport upon arrival.

❖ Minimum number of participants: 2 ❖ Maximum number of participants: 25



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