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Armenia – Georgia

23 August – 2 September

1 DAY / Arrival at Yerevan / Evening city tour

Meeting at the airport and transfer to the hotel. Check-in. Free (leisure) time at the hotel. Our guests have the city tour in the evening in Yerevan.



We begin acquaintance to one of the most ancient cities of the world, - Yerevan. Yerevan was founded in AD 782year by the king of Urartu - Argishti, was the capital of the First republic, the Soviet Armenia, and since 1991, - the present Republic of Armenia.



Let's a little take a walk in the center, we

will see the main square of Yerevan, the building of the **Opera and ballet, North Avenue** and other buildings.



Cascade complex – the complex is huge steps, and numerous fountains leave a falls impression. There is also a Gafeschyana Arts center where works of such modern artists as F. Botero, S. Libenski, Ya. Brikhtova, Zh. Plensa and etc. Free time



2 DAY / Yerevan – Khor Virap – Noravank – Yerevan

Breakfast at the hotel. Start our trip. And first stop is in **Khor Virap**. Is one of the most scenic monasteries in all of Armenia. Located about 45 minutes outside of Yerevan, Khor Virap is perhaps best known for its stunning backdrop of Mount Ararat, historically part of Armenia but later annexed by Turkey.



From there we will continue our way to the region **Vayots Dzor** which is the recognized center of the Armenian winemaking. Exactly here, in one of caves, the winery "**Areni-1**", was found the most ancient in the world (with more than 6000-year history).

Here we have the stop and the small excursion in **Areni's Cave 1 (Bird's cave)**.

Noravank Monastery (13-14th cc.) - meaning new monastery). It's the only church in Armenia decorated with a unique relief representation of the large-headed and bearded God the Father with large almond shaped eyes blessing the Crucifix with his right hand and holding in his left hand the head of Adam, with a dove — the Holy Spirit — above it. Noravank is a highly artistic monument reminiscent of the tower-like burial structures of the first years of Christianity in Armenia. Return to Yerevan.



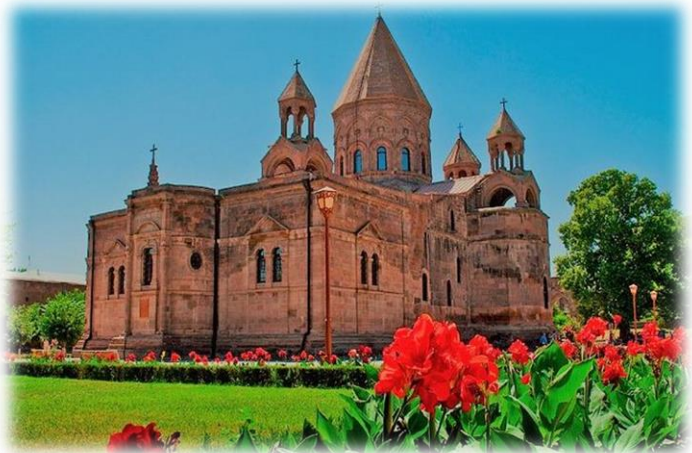
3 DAY / Yerevan – Zvartnots – Echmiadzin – Yerevan



Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to **Zvartnots Cathedral** – the amazing structure, result of extensive experience and creative potential of the Armenian architects of the 7th century. Being based on columns, it staid till the 10th century. At the beginning of the 20th century when excavation on this site was conducted, many experts hardly could accept the reconstruction model developed by the famous Armenian architect Toros Toramanyan as it is difficult to present how

such bulky and complex structure was possible be built those days. And after we will go to the spiritual center of all Armenians, to the city of Echmiadzin.

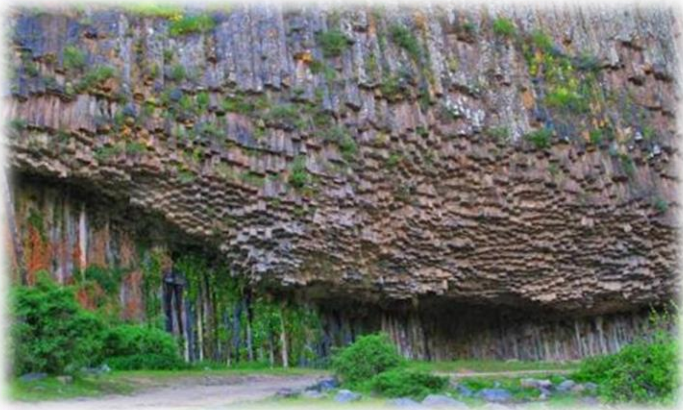
There are located **Echmiadzin Cathedral** and theological educational institutions are. The wooden cathedral was for the first time constructed in 303 (soon after introduction in Armenia of Christianity as the state religion) and then reconstructed in a stone the 5th and 7th centuries). Return to Yerevan.



After visit one of the famous brandy factories of Yerevan and taste the **legendary Armenian Brandy** You can pass a pleasant and memorable time in the tasting hall enjoying the delicious brandies.



4 DAY / Yerevan - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan



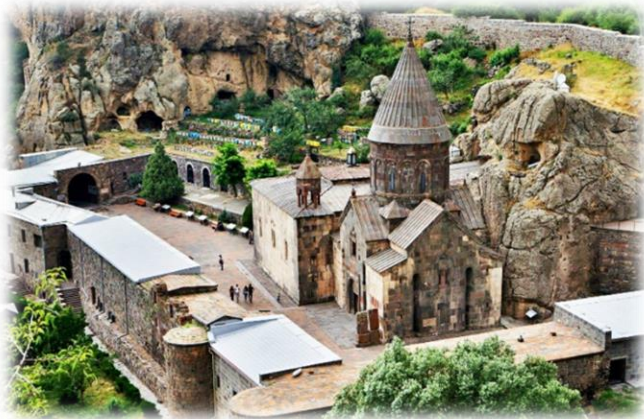
(2nd c. B.C.) in Garni village.

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to Kotayk region. Visit Garni Village. There is the **Azat gorge**, which is famous for the “**Symphony of Stones**” - the result of volcanic flows. The scientific name of this geological formation is columnar separation.

Visit **pagan temple** (1st c. A.D.) and the fortress



Visit **Geghard monastery** (12-13th cc.) (Meaning "the Monastery of the Spear", originates from the spear, which had wounded Jesus during his



crucifixion, allegedly brought to Armenia by Apostle Thaddeus, and stored amongst many other relics. You have an opportunity to listen spirituals chants at **Geghard Monestry**. Return to Yerevan

5 Day / Yerevan – Sevan – Dilijan

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out. Trip to **Lake Sevan**. It is the largest lake in Armenia and one of the biggest alpine lakes of the world. Here we see the monastery of the Holy Apostles called **Sevanavanq** which was founded in 874 by Princess Mariam Bagratuni.



After we travel to the resort town of **Dilijan**. Dilijan is a **spa town** and urban municipal community in the Tavush Province of Armenia. The town is one of the most important resorts in Armenia, situated within the **Dilijan National Park**. The forested town is home to numerous Armenian artists, composers, and filmmakers and features some traditional Armenian architecture. The

town is often referred to as the Armenian Switzerland or Little Switzerland by the locals.

Near Dilijan located a small village – **Yenoqavan**.

The canyon near the village is lush with forests, rivers and has caves with ancient carvings. Being located in the heart of the astonishing **Yenokavan mountains Yell Extreme Park** is a real paradise for those who want to combine adrenaline and eco environment. **Yell Extreme Park is a unique destination** where people can try various activities such as zip-line, paragliding, rope park, via ferrata or horizontal climbing, zorbing, paintball, horseback riding and off-road tour by Yell Truck. (OPTINAL*)





Overnight at the hotel Dilijan.



6 Day / Alaverdi – Georgian border – Tbilisi

After breakfast, we will travel north, to the **Lori region**. Visit to **Haghpat** monastic complex (S. X-XIII), a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, whose name literally means “it is older than that” compared to **Sanahin**. In fact, there were two villages with their respective monasteries located on a plain dried and separated by a deep gorge.

Crossing the **Armenian-Georgian** border.



Meeting at the border Sadakhlo, transfer to the city Tbilisi. Overview of the city, excursions in the **old part of Tbilisi**; Cable car ride to 4th century **Narikala Fortress**, an ancient citadel on a steep hill overlooking the city, **Metekhi church** (13th c.) – the grave of St. Shushanik, the Christian martyr is within the church. Next destination is **Sioni** – the cathedral of the 6th – 7th cc. **sulfur baths- Abanotubani** – a favorite place of Tbilisi citizens and foreign guests. We will visit an

open air museum of ethnography. Displaying the examples of folk architecture and craftwork from various regions of the country. Transfer to hotel. **Overnight in Tbilisi.**



7 Day / Tbilisi - Kakheti – Velistsikhe – Tbilisi



Breakfast at the Hotel. Transfer to **Kakheti**. At first we will visit **Bodbe**, Georgian orthodox monastic (XVIIc). Originally it was built in the 9th century. The monastery now functions as a nunnery and is one of the major pilgrimage sites in Georgia due to its association with St. Nino. The 4th century Female evangelist of Georgians, whose relics are shined there. Next destination is **Signaghi** – Georgia’s Smallest town, city of love, wine-growing region. **Velistsikhe** –

village in Georgia, and **wine degustation**. Back to Tbilisi. Overnight in Tbilisi.

8 Day / Tbilisi - Khazbegi – Ananuri – Srtepantsminda – Tbilisi



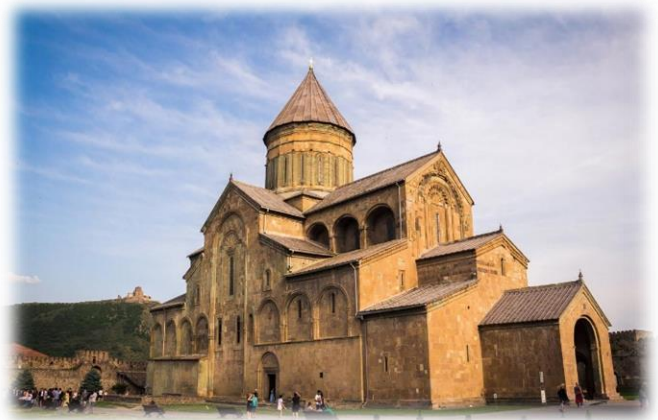
Breakfast at the Hotel. According to the Georgian Military Highway through the Cross Pass enjoying the spectacular scenery we head to **Khazbegi**: mountain Georgia, to the most famous of the

Greater Caucasus Mountain - 5047 meters, covered with eternal snow. On the way you will see the legendary fortress **Ananuri** Fortress (included in UNESCO), the most beautiful Georgian castle, and beautiful views of the **reservoir Zhinvali**. Visit well-known Sky resort **Gudauri**, well see panoramic view from Georgian Russian friendship monument. **Onrinue the road to Srtepantsminda, Visit Gergety church**, we will rise up with jeeps 4x4. From here you can take panoramic photos and feel magnificent views. Back to Tbilisi, Transfer to the hotel. **Overnight in Tbilisi.**

[9 Day / Tbilisi - Jvari – Mtskheta – Svetitskhoveli - Tbilisi](#)



Breakfast at the Hotel. We will go up to the **Jvari monastery (V century)**, from where you can observe a beautiful panorama of confluence of two magnificent rivers - **Aragvi and Mtkvari**. After that we are heading to the ancient capital of **Georgia, city-museum Mtskheta**, included in UNESCO World Heritage Site list. A visit to



cathedral church of **Svetitskhoveli (XI century)**, a holy place for each orthodox Christian. You can see the chitins of Jesus Christ on which he was crucified there. Later Back to Tbilisi, **free time for shopping** at Tbilisi Mall. Transfer to hotel. **Overnight in Tbilisi.**

[10 Day / Transfer to Yerevan](#)



Breakfast at the hotel. **Transfer to Yerevan.** Overnight at the hotel in Yerevan.

[11 Day / Transfer to airport](#)

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to Zvartnots airport. Departure

