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Wonders of Armenia

1 DAY / Arrival at Yerevan

Meeting at the airport and transfer to the hotel. Check-in. Free (leisure) time at the hotel.



2 DAY / Evening City Tour



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



3 DAY / Yerevan – Zvartnots – Echmiadzin – Yerevan

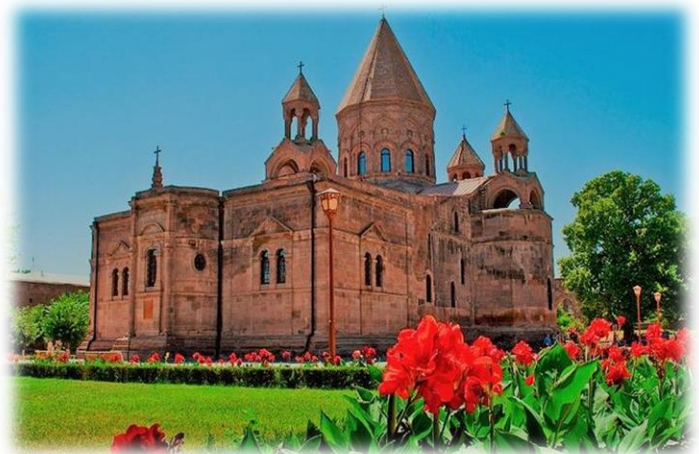


Zvartnots Cathedral – the amazing structure, result of extensive experience and creative potential of the Armenian architects of the 7th century. Being based on columns, it staid till the 10th century. At the beginning of the 20th century when excavation on this site was conducted, many experts hardly 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.

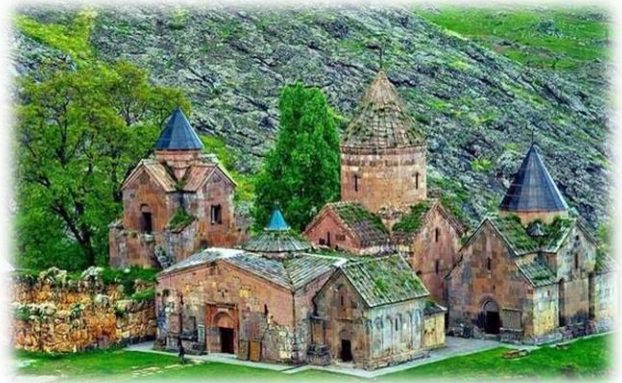


4 DAY / Yerevan – Sevanavank – Haghartsin - Goshavank – Yerevan



After we drive to **Sevan. Lake Sevan** - the largest alpine lake in the world. Visit Sevan monastery (9th c.) on peninsula. **Sevan Monastery** was established in an island on the lake in the Ninth Century. The last monk left in the 1930's. Since then the lake's water level has been lower somewhat through industrial uses and the monastery now sits on a peninsula. The monastery is still used, but as a retreat site for seminary students.

Travelling north from Lake Sevan, the road climbs and then descends through spectacular gorges to the spa town of **Dilijan**. Surrounded by a heavily forested area of mountains, Dilijan is a popular resort town, famous for its mineral water. Visit **Goshavank** (12-13th cc.) (Meaning Monastery of Gosh) In addition, from the impressive monastery, which has remained in relatively good condition, one of the world's finest khachkars (stones with



elaborate engravings representing a cross) is located at the monastery. **Haghartsin** (10-13th cc.) monastic complexes - nestled in a temperate rainforest on a mountainside. Return to Yerevan.



5 DAY / Yerevan – Khor Virap – Noravang – 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)**.

After we will visit **Angel's Canyon** is located in Ararat Valley, in Armenia, near the village **Dashtakar**. It stands out with its appearance and colors and impresses all visitors. There are many small rocky gorges in the area which make it much more admirable. this place is also famous for its healing mineral water in the area.



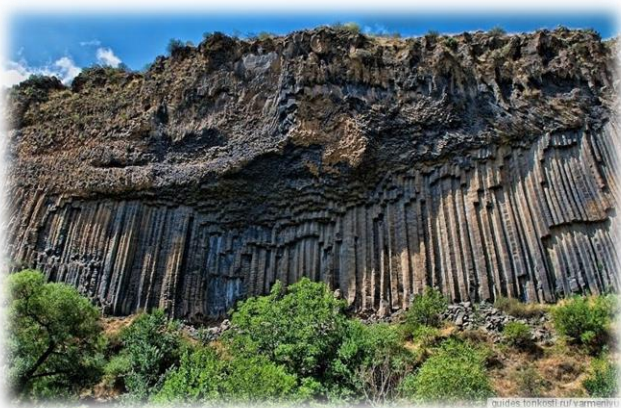
Noravank Monastery (13-14th cc.) - meaning new monastery). It's the only church in Armenia decorated with a unique relief representation of the large-headed and bearded God the Father with large almond shaped eyes blessing the Crucifix with his right hand and holding in his left hand the head of Adam, 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.



6 DAY / Free day

7 DAY / Yerevan - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to Kotayk region. On the way stop at Charents Arch (view on Mt Ararat).



After we have the jeep tour to the village **Garni**, 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 (2nd c. B.C.) in Garni village.



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.



8 Day / Yerevan – Zvartnots Airport - Departure

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out.
Transfer to Zvartnots Airport.

