

## Mission Tour to Armenia

### Tentative Itinerary

**All trips subjected to change in itinerary and/or cancellation**

DATE	ACTIVITY	DETAILS
<b>Day 1, Oct 9</b> Friday	20:15 pm Arrival to Yerevan International Airport Check in	
<b>Day 2, Oct 10</b> Saturday	8-9 am Breakfast 9:30 Meeting in one of the rented apartments (with two bedrooms) for tour orientation and introduction 11:00 Matenadaran 12:30 Lunch 14:00 Genocide Museum Yerevan City Tour Dinner	<b>Yerevan</b> is the capital of Armenia situated on the Hrazdan River, north-east of the Ararat plain. The population of Yerevan is estimated to be 1,107,800 people. The history of Yerevan dates back to the 8th century BC. Yerevan is a city of Christian cathedrals, theatres and museums, universities and academies, modern airports, parks and research labs, squares and industrial sites.  <b>Genocide Museum-Institute</b> is academic and scientific study, analysis of the problems, as well as exhibition of the textual and visual documentation related to the first genocide of the 20th century. <b>The Matenadaran</b> is both a museum of ancient manuscripts and a scientific research institute. The Matenadaran is a major center with a unique and exceptionally rich manuscript collection, one that has become a symbol of Armenia. It is named after Mesrop Mashtots, who is credited with the creation of the Armenian alphabet in 405.
<b>Day 3, Oct 11</b> Sunday	8-9 am Breakfast 10:15 Tour to the Holy Echmiadzin 11:00 Liturgy Service Visit to the Church Museum Meeting with local spiritual leaders 13:00 Visit to Vocational Education project at Cross of Armenian Unity Art Center NGO. Lunch at the Art Center 15:30-16:00 Zvartnots Cathedral Dinner	The district of the <b>Holy Echmiadzin</b> (1 hour drive from Yerevan) is the Vatican City of Armenia and the center of the Armenian Apostolic Church. It is the seat of the Catholicos of All Armenians and the most populous city in Armavir province, about 20 km west of Yerevan. The cathedral, the oldest Christian temple was founded in 301 and is one of the first churches in the Christian World.  <b>Zvartnots Cathedral</b> famous for its unique design was built between 643 and 652 AD by Catholicos Nerses III (nicknamed the Builder). In 930 AD the church was ruined by an earthquake and remained buried until its rediscovery in the early 20th century.
<b>Day 4, Oct 12</b> Monday	8-9 am Breakfast 10:00 Trip to Lukashin village of Armavir Region. Visit to Microlending Support to Farmers Economic Development projects. Lunch with the farmers. Try fresh, ecologically clean fruits and vegetables from the gardens.	<b>JMF Micro-Lending Project</b> provides affordable loans to farmer cooperatives to support small farmers and agricultural development. Nearly 50% of Armenian's workforce is involved in agriculture.

	19:00 Chamber Music Concert/Aram Khachaturyan Concert Hall	
<b>Day 5, Oct 13</b> Tuesday	<p>8-9 am Breakfast</p> <p>10:00 Trip to Shirak region, Gyumri city.</p> <p>12:00 Visit to the Lady of Armenian Convent, Orphanage and vocational school.</p> <p>Lunch at the Convent with Catholic Nuns and orphans in Gyumri</p> <p>14:30 Visit to Civic Dialogue and Actions project at the State University of Gyumri.</p> <p>Dinner in Gyumri</p>	<p><b>Gyumri</b> (2 hours drive from Yerevan) is the second city of Armenia and one of the oldest cities in the world. It exists more than 2500 years and is known as the center of traditional Armenian architecture, science, and tourism. The inhabitants have gained the reputation of hospitality and a rich sense of humor.</p> <p><b>Civic Dialogue and Action project</b> assists in empowering university students to become active citizens in their communities.</p> <p>The <b>Congregation of the Armenian Sisters</b> of the Immaculate Conception is a religious order of nuns established in 1847 in Constantinople for the purpose of educating the Armenian youth.</p>
<b>Day 6, Oct 14</b> Wednesday  WITH TOUR GUIDE	<p>8-9 am Breakfast</p> <p>9:00 Visit to Khor Virab Noravanq Monastery</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>Visit to Tatev Monastery Wings of Tatev cableway</p> <p>Dinner</p>	<p><b>Khor Virap</b> (1 hour drive from Yerevan) is a place of pilgrimage for Armenians all over the world, where Armenian pagan king Trdat imprisoned Saint Gregory the Illuminator for refusing to acknowledge the Goddess Anahit. From here one can enjoy the majestic view of Mount Ararat.</p> <p><b>Noravanq Monastery</b> (1.5 hour drive from Yerevan), situated on a ledge over Arpa River gorge surrounded by fantastic red rocks, was founded in the place of an ancient monastery and took on special significance as a cultural and religious center in the 13-14<sup>th</sup> cc. On the territory of the complex there are several khachkars (cross stones) of original design the most valuable of which is a 1308 khachkar by Momik. The mission of the</p> <p><b>Tatev Monastery</b> is a masterpiece of confluence of ingenious medieval architecture and fabulous nature of Armenia. It is one of the most spectacular attractions and famous spiritual and education centers of the Middle Ages.</p> <p><b>Wings of Tatev</b> is the longest reversible <a href="#">aerial tramway</a> (3.5 mi) that holds the record for <i>Longest non-stop double track cable car</i>.</p>
<b>Day 7, Oct 15</b> Thursday	<p>8-9 am Breakfast</p> <p>10:00 Visit to the lake Sevan and Sevanavank Monastery</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>14:00 – 14:30 Visit to the Youth Engaged in Society project in the regional school of Armenia. Participate in school debates on the hot topics</p>	<p><b>Sevanavank</b> is a monastic complex located on a peninsula at the northwestern shore of Lake Sevan in the Gegharkunik Province of Armenia, not far from the town of Sevan. According to an inscription in one of the churches, the monastery of Sevanavank was founded in 874 by Princess Mariam, the daughter of Ashot I (who became a king a decade later). At the time, Armenia was still struggling to free itself from Arab rule.</p>

	concerning Armenia and learn school students' opinions.  Dinner	
<b>Day 8, Oct 16</b> Friday  <b>WITH TOUR GUIDE</b>	8-9 am Breakfast  9:00 Trip to Odzun village. Meeting with Father Vrtanes  Lunch at the priest's house with the priest's family  Sightseeing at Odzun and other monasteries in the region  Dinner	This magnificent 7 <sup>th</sup> century <b>Odzum church</b> is situated in the north of Armenia in the village of Odzun (3 hours from Yerevan) built by Catholicos Hovhannes of Odzun. According to a legend, when Hovhannes was at prayer, two dragons fell upon his residence. Hovhannes made the sign of the Cross before them and the two dragons instantly turned into stone. These stone dragons exist today.
<b>Day 9, Oct 17</b> Saturday  <b>WITH TOUR GUIDE</b>	8-9 am Breakfast  10: 00 Visit to Geghard Monastery  Visit to Garni Pagan temple  Lunch in Garni village    Dinner	<b>Garni Pagan</b> Temple was built in 1st. century and devoted to one of the Armenian Pagan Gods – Mitra. It is the only example of the Hellenistic culture on the territory of Modern Armenia and Caucasus. The structures of the fortress of Garni are in perfect harmony with the surrounding nature. The fortress is situated in a picturesque mountain locality and commands a broad panorama of orchards, fields and mountain slopes covered with motley carpets of varicolored grasses, of the jagged and precipitous canyon of the Azat river.  The Monastery of <b>Geghard</b> (the Lance) is located 40 km southeast of the city of Yerevan in the mountainous region of Kotayk. Inscriptive and documentary references to the monastery, also known as Ayrivanq, date from the 7th and 10th centuries, respectively. The spectacular towering cliffs surrounding the monastery are part of the Azat river gorge, and are included together with the monastery in the World Heritage Site listing. It is famous for its rock-carved chapel of St. Astvatsatsin.
<b>Day 10, Oct 18</b> Sunday	8-9 am Breakfast  10:45 Visit to Armenian Evangelical Church  11:00 Worship  Meeting with the local spiritual leadership  Lunch    Vernissage (Open Air handicraft market)  Dinner	<b>Vernissage</b> (walking distance from the city center) is an open air market of local handicraft jewelries, carpets, art work, carved wood ornaments, etc.
<b>Day 11, Oct 19</b> Monday	6:00 am departure Snack boxes	