

## THE MAIN SIGHTSEEINGS OF ARMENIA

### KHOR VIRAP MONASTERY



**Khor Virap Monastery**

The monastery of Khor Virap is situated on top of the hill and is one of the sanctuaries of the Armenian Apostolic church and a pilgrimage site. According to church lore this is the location of the municipal jail of the capital of Armenia Artashat, where upon the orders of king Trdat III, they threw Gregory the Illuminator who was accused of professing Christianity. Gregory spent there 13 years. In 642 Catholicos Nerses III built a chapel over the jail. The monastery also includes the church of St.

Astvatsatsin was built in the end of the 17th century, fragments of the wall that once surrounded the monastery, the refectory, the cells of the monks. The most magnificent view of mount Ararat opens from the hilltop of the monastery.

### TSAGHKADZOR

The Tsakhkadzor resort is on the eastern slope of mount Teghenis. Tsakhkadzor is famous for its numerous pensions, lodges and sport facilities. There is sky lift leading to the top of Mount Teghenis. The marvelous monastery complex of Kecharis is in the northwest part of the town. The Kecharis Monastery (11-13th cc) comprises three churches and two chapels. .



**Kecharis Monastery**

### DILIJAN

Dilijan is located in the northern part of Armenia, this region is famous for its forests and health resorts, its spectacular scenery and cultural centers.

### HAGHARTSIN MONASTERY



**Hagartsin Monastery**

You will drive through plush forests, reach the Hagartsin monastery, an 11-13th c church situated deep in the woods, about 18km from the town of Dilijan. The monastery was founded in the south where the St. Grigor church was built. The cross-formed church had side sculptures in all the corners and states out as a white spot against the background of the forest. The principal church St. Astvatsatsin was built in 1281 by the domed hall pattern. The main attraction of the monastery is the refectory that has two halls. The monastery is one of the leading cultural centers of medieval Armenia

## GOSHAVANK MONASTERY

Another monastery – Goshavank where one may admire the unique stone cross made with a needle.. You will also visit the beautifully landscaped monastery of Goshavank. Goshavank was founded on the right bank of the Getik River in 1188 by famous Armenian scholar, jurist and fabulist M.Gosh. The Monastery includes the churches of St. Astvatsatsin, St. Grigor, St. Lousavorich, a scriptorium and a school of 13th c. Many beautiful khachkars (cross-stones) have been presented in Goshavank.



**Goshavank Cross  
Stone made with  
needle**



**Temple of Garni**

Temple of Garni is the only surviving monument of the Hellenistic period in Armenia.

The temple is dedicated to the God of the sun Mithra and was built in the 2nd half of the 1st c A.D. during the reign of king Trdat I. The temple was collapsed during the earthquake of 1679. It was restored in the 1970s, using the surviving fragments and carving the missing ones renewed. The temple is built of basalt stone. The walls of the shrine and the 24 columns

of the portico rest on a podium. The facade and the rear have 6 columns each, while the flanks have 8 each. The portal has wide stairs leading up to it. The heathen temple is on the territory of the fortress of Garni. The territory of the fortress, that was used as the Summer residence of Armenian royalty, included the palace, the royal bath - house, the garrison barracks and other structures that did not survive..

## GEGHARD MONASTERY

Geghard - According to the Armenian historians as early as in the 4th c there had already been a monastery called Ayrivank (the cave monastery) in this inaccessible corner of the Azat ravine . Later the monastery was renamed Geghard which meant "spear". According to lore the monastery was the depository of one of the relics of the Armenian Apostolic church: the spear that one of the roman guards had used to pierce the rib of crucified Christ. The monastic complex was built in the 13th c and comprises the principal church Katoghike built in 1215 by the Zakarians princes and two tiers of churches carved inside the rock built at the end of the 13th c by prince Proshian who bought it from Zakarians and the living quarters with auxiliary structures.



**Geghard Monastery**

## ARCH OF CHARENTS



On the way to the historical monument of the pagan temple of Garni one may admire the beauty of the Ararat Mountain from the Arch of Charents.

## SEVNAVANK MONASTERY

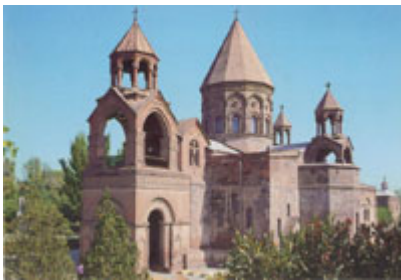
There are many historical and architectural monuments in the vicinities of the Sevan. The Sevan Monastery (9thc). It is on the present day Sevan peninsula. The congregation settled on the island at the end of the 8th century initiated building a monastery. Three churches were built but only two of them have survived: the church of St. Arakelots and the church of St. Astvatsatsin. Both of them were built in 874 following the cross-shaped pattern. Here you can also taste the most delicious trout-Ishkan (prince), fresh from the lake. Every trip to Armenia is completing by visiting to Lake Sevan, one the largest and the highest lakes in Eurasia at about 1.900 meters above sea level. Lake Sevan is the Pearl of Armenia. You can taste also Armenian dishes accompanied by great variety of Armenian beverages. Tourist can enjoy sailing, motor boating, water skiing, windsurfing and fishing.



**Sevanavank**

## ECHMIATSIN CATHEDRAL

The main attraction of Echmiadzin city is a monastery of St. Echmiadzin. The cathedral is the oldest Christian church in Armenia.



**Mother Cathedral**

Its building founded in the 4th c immediately upon the adoption of Christianity. During the history the Cathedral was rebuilt over & over. The interior of the Cathedral was decorated by Hovnatanyans. In the 2nd half of the 19th c an annex was attached to the Cathedral from the east, which housed the Museum of Echmiadzin. In the 80s a special building was erected next to the residence of the Catholicos, named after the famous benefactor Alex Manoukian and his spouse. The museum preserves highly praised ritual utensils, crosses, staffs, jewelry, painting, etc. The magnificent church of St. Hripsime

was built in 618 A.D. by Catholicos Komitas on the site of the legendary martyrdom of virgin Hripsime that had fled to Armenia from Roman Empire with her friends. The relics of St. Hripsime are contained in a tomb under the church. The St. Hripsime church stands out by its stern and monumental forms, solemn and monolithic, in its rightfully considered one of the masterworks of Armenian architecture. St. Gayane church was built in 630 A.D. over a chapel that had stood on the site of the martyrdom of Gayane, the leader Christian virgin. The church of St. Gayane has clear forms and solemn interior.

## ZVARTNOTS RUINS

Five kilometers towards Yerevan from Echmiadzin there are the ruins of Zvartnots. Zvartnots was a church built by Toros Toromian the famous architect. The temple was built in the 7th c by Catholicos Nerses III Shinarar. The temple was damaged by an earth-quake in the 10th c. The temple was a tree tiered central - domed structure that astounded with its magnificence. According to the opinion of European specialists the temple of Zvartnots may be ranked with greatest monuments of ancient architecture.



**Ruins of Zvartnots**



## ASHTARAK TOWN

Ashtarak has many historical and architectural monuments. The most famous ones are the churches of Mughni, Ohanavank, Saghmosavank, Karmravor, Spitakavor and others.

## HOVHANAVANK MONASTERY



The monastery of Hovhanavank is founded in the village of Hovhanavan. The monastic complex includes a single-nave church, which was built in the 5th c, the oldest in the monastery and the principal church of St. Karapet of the cross-domed kind dated on 1216. The church is richly decorated with vegetative ornaments, it has a bas-relief with the depiction of Christ on a throne.

## SAGHMOSAVANK MONASTERY

In the north of Ashtarak in the village of Artashavan there is the monastery of Saghmosavank. The principal church of the monastic complex is St. Sargis, which prince Vache Vachoutian built it in 1215. There is a scriptorium in the north of it.



## OSHAKAN



The church of St. Mesrop Mashtots which is located in Oshakan. The name comes from the Armenian alphabet founder Mesrop Mashtots who died in 440 A.D and was buried in Oshakan. A small chapel was built over his grave, which was replaced by a single nave basilicathe in the 2nd half of the 19th century.

## FORTRESS OF AMBERD

Amberd fortress and castle (10-13th cc) was the familial estate of the Pahlavouni princes.

It is one of the few feudal castles of Armenia that has been more or less preserved to our days. The location for its has been selected quite skillfully, the builders took advantage of the mountainous terrain and put the fortress on a cape surrounded on three sides by ravines. Fragments of the water supply system of the castle, as well as the baths and the secret passage to the canyon are preserved. In 1206 a cross-domed type church was built on the territory of the fortress. It was commissioned by the famous Armenian warlord Vahram Pahlavouni and is one of the most beautiful churches of its type in Armenia.



Amberd fortress

## **TSISERNAKABERD MEMORIAL**

The museum of the Armenian Genocide opened in 1995 during the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the genocide of the Armenian population of Western Armenia by the Turkish government in of 1915. The building of the museum is on the hilltop of Tsitsernakaberd the Memorial to Genocide Victims



**Tsitsernakaberd**

## **NATIONAL ACADEMIC OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE NAMED AFTER A. SPENDIARYAN**



The Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall and the Alexander Spendiaryan Opera and Ballet National Academic Theatre both make up one huge building which most locals simply refer to as the Opera building. It is in the heart of Yerevan, right between Cascade and Republic Square.

Northern Avenue is built between Opera and Republic Square. There is a large park around Opera, which contains Swan Lake, Freedom Square, and over a dozen very popular outdoor cafes.

The Opera and its parks are contained between Sayat Nova Street, Terian Street, Tumanian Street and Mashtots Street. The construction of the cafes in the park has been controversial. All along Mashtots Street, between French Square at Sayat Nova Street to Tumanian Street, are the many billboards advertising upcoming performances at both halls, as well as other venues throughout the city. In 2004, the Lincy Foundation cleaned the entire building to bring it to its current glamour.

## **NATIONAL GALLERY OF ARMENIA**

National Gallery of Armenia is situated in the center of Yerevan in the Republic Square. It has been located there since its foundation, in 1921. However, the first two-floor structure built in black tufa has been resurfaced with white stone and, in 1978, a new eight-floor section was opened. In its relatively short period of existence the Gallery has created a rich collection of Armenian, Russian, and West European works (over twenty thousand objects). Donatello, Tintoretto, Fragonard, Courbet, Rousseau, Serov, Kandinsky, Chagall, Aivazosky (Aivazian), Sarian, Yakulov, Carzou are some of the artists who have made the Gallery famous.

