

# ARMENIA

Led by the Rev Peter Paine

Friday 16th - Friday 23rd September 2016



Worldwide Christian Travel



Carol and Peter welcome you to our tour of Armenia which has the distinction of being the first state officially to embrace Christianity in 301AD. It is a country rich in Christian heritage, mountainous landscape, lakes and a proud though persecuted people. This is an excellent trip and highly recommended by Worldwide Christian Travel.

We do hope you can join us.



### **Day 1 - Friday**

Depart on our flight from London Gatwick to Yerevan, the capital of Armenia. On arrival we will be welcomed by our representative and transferred to our hotel for overnight.

### **Day 2 - Saturday**

Time to rest or enjoy a morning walking tour of the town before lunch.

In the afternoon there will be a three hour city tour, visiting 'Matenadaran' - one of the biggest depositories of ancient manuscripts, stopping at a vantage point from where we will have a wonderful view of Yerevan town. Dinner and overnight in Yerevan.

### **Day 3 - Sunday**

After breakfast we visit Echmiadzin, St. Hripsime, Gayane and Zvartnotz. This excursion takes us to one of the oldest towns in Armenia, Echmiadzin which is a mere 20 km from Yerevan. It is the religious centre of Armenia. Legend tells us that it was here that Jesus Christ descended from heaven to show where he wanted a church to be built. It was named Echmiadzin which means 'The Coming of the Only Begotten', where all kinds of relics, manuscripts, church plates and gifts are kept. We will attend the Divine Liturgy at the Patriarchal Church then visit the churches of the Holy Virgin Hripsime and Holy Virgin Gayane, examples of medieval architecture of the 7th century. On the way to Yerevan we will visit the ruins of the Zvartnots - one of the architectural wonders of Armenia and visit the open market (Vernisai) where we can find attractive handmade souvenirs, carpets, obsidian handicraft, tuff cross stones and ceramics. Dinner and overnight in Yerevan. Lunch in the Children art school.

### **Day 4 - Monday**

We will visit Erebuni - a fortress museum dating back to Urartian times. There will be a

four hour excursion to Garni and Gegard. The restored temple at Garni, dating back to the second century BC is a splendid example of ancient architecture. At one time a great complex of palaces and temples, serving as a summer residence for the Armenian Kings, stood here. Six kilometres from Garni there is a fantastic example of medieval Armenian architecture, the Geghard Cave Monastery (the name refers to the lance used to pierce Jesus' side, when he was on the cross). The Temple is cut into the side of the cliff and surrounded with ancient gravestones. The acoustics in the church are amazing: in some enclosures the sound can last as long as 30 - 40 seconds. The secrets of these old buildings have never been found. On our return we will stop for a breathtaking view of Mt Ararat taken through a stone arch erected to the eminent Armenian poet Yeghishe Charents, who used to gaze at Mt Ararat from this spot. Dinner and overnight in Yerevan. Lunch will be in a village house garden, where we can see how they bake Armenian traditional bread Lavash.

### **Day 5 - Tuesday**

After breakfast we drive to Sevan - Dilijan. This fresh water lake of volcanic origin is situated at an altitude of about 6,500 feet. Its crystal clear transparent water changes colour several times during the day. It is turquoise in direct sunlight, then turns a greenish shade, and finally becomes grey toward evening. Sevan has always been famous for its fish, especially trout. Small wonder the trout was part of the tribute Armenia paid to its conquerors. Armenians call the trout 'shkhan' which means 'prince fish', because of the little dots which make it look as though it is wearing a crown. Like other parts of Armenia, the Sevan area has many historical sites of great interest. Among the most interesting is the monastery on the rocky peninsula jutting out into Sevan. One

of the churches, named Arakelots (The Apostles) is made of rough hewn, weather-beaten slabs. The other church, Astvatsatsin, is larger and of finer workmanship. After a cup of coffee we continue our journey to the beautiful rolling valley framed by the mountains of the Lesser Caucasus - this is Dilijan - one of the best resort towns in Armenia. For those who are interested in history and medieval architecture, Dilijan holds quite a few attractions. One of them is the Agartsin Monastery. It is to be found about 7 km up stream which falls into the Agstev River to the northwest of the town. The monastery may be described as a school of architecture. It took about 300 years to build with every generation of architects adding on new structures so accurately that they enhanced and blended with the design of their predecessors and the natural surroundings. After visiting Agartsin Monastery we will have a lunch/picnic in the picturesque valley. Overnight in Yerevan.

Lunch in a private house which helps the guests to understand Armenian families.

#### **Day 6 - Wednesday**

After breakfast we will have a trip to Ashtarak - this verdant town is believed to be one of the most ancient sites where primitive man settled. Tsiranavor (orange coloured) church is one of the oldest structures to be found in this district. A short walk from Tsiranavor church will bring us to Karmaravor (red coloured) church - one of the ancient churches of Ashtarak and the only one in Armenia which has retained its original roofing. Near to the church there is an old cemetery with a variety of interesting head stones, dating from 8th century. After lunch we will take an excursion to the Amberd fortress (5 km). The fortress with its towers, embrasures and arches is situated on the high cliff, which emerged due to the deep gorges of the rivers Amberd and Apkashen. On the way to Yerevan we can take photographs of Mount Ararat. Overnight in Yerevan.

Lunch will again be in a private house.

#### **Day 7 - Thursday**

Today we head for the Southern region of Armenia. The road from Yerevan leads through the plains of Ararat, where all of a sudden an attractive picture of Khor - Virab Monastery appears. Today this complex embodies the significant historical event - the adoption of Christianity in Armenia in 301AD. We stop to

see the complex and take photographs. After approximately one hour's drive, we arrive at Noravank Monastery, situated on the hill of the twisted gorge, among the freakish plumb rosy cliffs. Near Noravank Monastery, which is really a place of breath-taking natural beauty where we shall have a picnic lunch. On the return to Yerevan we will call at one of Armenia's many wineries and have an opportunity to buy local wine. Overnight in Yerevan.

Lunch near Noravank monastery, where we will try delicious chicken barbeque.

#### **Day 8 - Friday**

Snacks and tea or coffee before our early morning transfer to the airport for our return flight to London Gatwick.

*Itinerary subject to change*

#### **Price £1398 per person**

##### **What the price includes**

- Return flights from London Gatwick to Yerevan
- Accommodation in 4\* hotel in twin bedded rooms with private facilities on full board basis including six lunches as per the itinerary
- Services of a fully qualified English speaking guide
- Entrance fees, service charges, portage and gratuities.
- Tours and transfers in air-conditioned coach
- Concert in Geghard monastery
- Baking ceremony in Garni Village
- 1 bottle of mineral water per person per day
- Airport taxes

##### **Not included in the price**

- Items of a personal nature including drinks with meals
- Travel from home to UK airport
- Single supplement £259 per person
- Travel insurance (see back page)
- £2.50 ATOL Protection Contribution\*

Please note that the cost of the tour may be subject to surcharges - please see the booking conditions. Currency exchange rates used £1 = US\$1.5593 as published in the Financial Times on 31st December 2014.

\* APC (ATOL Protection Contribution) provides passenger protection via the ATTF (Air Travel Trust Fund). For further information visit [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk)

## How to Book

You can book this tour online at [www.christian-travel.com](http://www.christian-travel.com) or by completing the attached booking form and sending it together with your deposit of £200 and a copy of your passport (full payment if within 10 weeks of departure) to:

**Worldwide Christian Travel**  
**36 Coldharbour Road, Bristol BS6 7NA**

**Please make cheques payable to  
'Hadler Tours Limited'**

Tel: 0845 458 8308

Email: [info@christian-travel.com](mailto:info@christian-travel.com)

Website: [www.christian-travel.com](http://www.christian-travel.com)

Worldwide Christian Travel has been organising Christian holidays and tours for over 40 years. We cover all aspects of travel and are one of the most comprehensive Christian travel organisers in the country. Worldwide Christian Travel is a trading name of Hadler Tours Limited.

## General Information

### Fitness

People of all ages are welcome, but, whatever your age, we must insist on a reasonable level of fitness. A number of sites involve rough walking.

### Your protection

Hadler Tours Limited is a member of ABTA with membership numbers 93522 & V2096. ABTA and ABTA Members help holidaymakers to get the most from their travel and assist them when things do not go according to plan. We are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by ABTA's Code of Conduct. For further information about ABTA, the Code of Conduct and the arbitration scheme available to you or if you have a complaint, contact ABTA, 30 Park Street London SE1 9EQ Tel: 020 3117 0500 or visit [www.abta.com](http://www.abta.com).

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3078. For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

### Passports, Visas and Vaccinations

Travellers are responsible for ensuring that they have a valid passport for travel to the relevant countries and that it is valid for at least 6 months after the date of travel. Visas are not required for British passport holders visiting Armenia. At the time this brochure went to press no vaccinations or inoculations are required for travel but you may wish to consult your own doctor for advice

concerning this. If you have any queries regarding the above, we will be happy to help.

### Travel Advice

For the latest travel advice please visit [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk), see BBC Ceefax page 470 onwards or call 0870 606 0290.

### Further Information And Paying The Balance

Further information will be sent to you regarding any action that may be required approximately 12 weeks before departure.

A final invoice will also be sent at this time and the balance for the tour must be paid at least 10 weeks before departure.

### Travel Information

Full travel information, including details of meeting points, flight times, accommodation and travel information, will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks before departure. Normally, tickets are not issued but are handed to you at the airport or departure point by our representative who will be there to ensure that you depart without a hitch and to deal with any last minute difficulties.

### Travel Insurance

It is compulsory to have travel insurance for your booking. Holiday Extras have a range of policies available at very competitive prices.

You can obtain a quote online by visiting [www.christian-travel.com](http://www.christian-travel.com) or alternatively you can call 0871 360 2742 and quote ABTA number 93522.

### Gratuities

These are included in the price and will be distributed by your group leader.

### Room Check In and Check Out Times

The standard international practice is to let rooms from midday to midday. However times do vary. Check-in times are usually between 2pm and 3pm, check-out times between 11am and 12 noon on the day of departure. Therefore, if you check-in immediately after a night flight this would normally count as one night's accommodation. Similarly if your return flight is at night you will normally be required to vacate your room at 12 noon prior to leaving for the airport. Day rooms are subject to availability/cost and should be arranged locally with the accommodation management.

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