

**Jinishian Memorial Program
Study Tour to Armenia**

June 1-10, 2025 or October 1-10, 2025

(All trips subjected to change in itinerary and/or cancellation)

| DATE | ACTIVITY | DETAILS |
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| Dai 1 Arrival day | 6:00 pm Meeting at Ani Plaza Hotel lobby Dinner at Café Central | Arrival to Yerevan International Airport Check in at Ani Plaza Hotel or apartments |
| Day 2 | <p>8:00-9:00 am Breakfast</p> <p>10:00 am trip to Sevan city (1 hour drive)</p> <p>11:00 am Visit to Sevan Rehabilitation Center (June 1 Children’s Day celebration)</p> <p>12:00 pm Visit to printing business in Sevan (business supported in the scope of the Youth Business Armenia (YBA) project)</p> <p>Visit to EduCAT educational center in Sevan</p> <p>1:00 - 2:00 pm Lunch at Ashot Yerkat restaurant in Sevan</p> <p>2:00 - 3:00 pm Visit to Lake Sevan and Sevanavank Monastery</p> <p>4:00 pm Visit to Noratus</p> <p>4:30 pm Visit to ELITE wedding salon in Karmirgyugh village, Gavar Business supported in the scope of the YBA project</p> <p>6:00 pm Dinner in Sevan Fazenda Youth Business Armenia supported business</p> <p>Back to Yerevan city</p> | <p>The Sevan Rehabilitation Center improves the quality of life of children and adults with disabilities and development disorders from Sevan and 10 surrounding villages. The Center provides necessary conditions for rehabilitation, education, activity and social adaption to further contribute towards improvement of the social-economic state of the children and their families.</p> <p>The Youth Business Armenia project is aimed at supporting young people in the regions of Armenia in their need for entrepreneurial success, and to contribute to the creation and expansion of youth-led enterprises, thus promoting development of the local private sector and helping to alleviate the poverty and social disparities.</p> <p>Sevanavank 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 AD by Princess Mariam, the daughter of Ashot I (who became a king a decade later).</p> <p>Noratus cemetery, also spelled Noraduz, is a medieval cemetery with many early khachkars located in the village of Noratus, Gegharkunik Province near Gavar and Lake Sevan. The oldest khachkars in the cemetery date back to the late 10th century.</p> |
| Day 3 | <p>8:00-9:00 am Breakfast</p> <p>Khor Virap (in case of the clear sky)</p> <p>10:00 am Visit to Garni Pagan temple</p> | <p>Khor Virap (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> |

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| | <p>1:00 pm Lunch in Garni Toun restaurant in Garni</p> <p>Visit to Geghard Monastery (1-hour drive) Armenian Liturgy service (Patarag)</p> <p>3:00 pm Back to the hotel.</p> <p>Free time</p> <p>Vernissage shopping (if time allows)</p> <p>6:00 pm Dinner at Kamancha Restaurant</p> | <p>Garni Pagan Temple was built in the first century and devoted to one of the Armenian Pagan Gods, Mitra. It is the only example of the Hellenistic culture in the territory of the whole Caucasus. 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.</p> <p>The Monastery of Geghard (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. It is famous for its rock-carved chapel of St. Astvatsatsin.</p> <p>Vernissage (walking distance from the city center) is an open-air market of local handicraft jewelries, carpets, art work, carved wood ornaments, etc.</p> |
| <p>Day 4</p> | <p>8:00-9:00 am Breakfast</p> <p>9:30 am Trip to Shirak region, Gyumri city (2-hour drive)</p> <p>11:30 am Coffee and sweets at Ponchik-Monchik</p> <p>Visit to Marine Mkrtchyan Psychological Center Business supported in the scope of the YBA project</p> <p>1:00-2:00 pm Lunch at Ktor M (Կտոր Մ) family style restaurant</p> <p>2:15 -3:30 pm Visit to school N27 to meet with school counsel and former debate teams</p> <p>3:45 pm Visit to beekeeping business in Karmraqar village, Shirak region (15 minutes from Gyumri) Business supported in the scope of the YBA project</p> <p>6:00 pm Dinner in Cherkezi Dzor Restaurant, Gyumri city</p> <p>Back to Yerevan city</p> | <p>Gyumri is the second city of Armenia and one of the oldest cities in the world. The earliest settlement dates back 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>The Youth Engaged in Society project is aimed at fostering democracy and developing active and responsible citizens through the establishment of debate clubs in Armenia. The project began in 2005 and has been active in more than 100 schools of Armenian regions.</p> |

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| <p>Day 5</p> | <p>8:00-9:00 am Breakfast</p> <p>9:00 am Noravanq Monastery (1-hour drive)</p> <p>12:00 pm Lunch in Noravanq</p> <p>Visit to Tatev Monastery, Wings of Tatev cableway (optional)</p> <p>Dinner on the way back to Yerevan</p> | <p>Noravanq Monastery (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 13-14th centuries. On the territory of the complex there are several khachkars (cross stones) of original design the most valuable of which is a khachkar by Momik dating to 1308 AD.</p> <p>Tatev Monastery is a masterpiece of confluence of ingenious medieval architecture and fabulous natural beauty of Armenia. It is one of the most spectacular attractions and famous spiritual and education centers of the Middle Ages.</p> <p>Wings of Tatev is the longest reversible aerial tramway (3.5 miles) that holds the record for Longest non-stop double track cable car.</p> |
| <p>Day 6</p> | <p>8:00-9:00 am Breakfast</p> <p>10:00 am Visit to Genocide Museum or Matenadaran</p> <p>11:30 am Visit to JMP office</p> <p>12:00 pm Lunch</p> <p>2:00 pm Visit to organic farms</p> <p>3:00 pm Lunch with Farmers</p> <p>7:00 pm Yerevan Night City Tour Singing Fountains</p> | <p>Matenadaran the Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts is an incredibly rare and exclusive treasure due to its collection of manuscripts and the activity that it now exercises. It holds the history of Armenian and foreign nations' written cultures.</p> <p>Yerevan is the capital of Armenia situated on the Hrazdan River, north-east of the Ararat plain. The population of Yerevan is estimated to be about one million 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, parks and research labs, squares and industrial sites.</p> |
| <p>Day 7</p> | <p>8:00-9:00 am Breakfast</p> <p>9:30 Trip to Lori region (2 hour drive)</p> <p>11:30 am Visit to Beelife beekeeping business in Spitak, Lori region Business supported in the scope of the YBA project</p> <p>1:30 – 2:30 pm Lunch at Boo Café in Vanadzor Business supported in the scope of the YBA project</p> <p>4:30 pm Visit to Arev tegstil (Production of eco bags, towels, bed sets) in Dsegh village, Lori Business supported in the scope of the YBA project</p> | <p>Lori, is a province of Armenia. It is located in the north of the country, bordering Georgia.</p> <p>Vanadzor is the capital city of the Lori region. It is the 3-rd largest city in Armenia and the industrial, economic, educational and cultural center of Lori. The city is about 120 kilometers (75 miles) north of the capital Yerevan. Vanadzor was known as Gharakilisa, then in the Soviet period as Kirovakan, and after the independence of Armenia in 1992, Kirovakan was renamed Vanadzor.</p> <p>The city is located in the valley of the Pambak river, 1350 meters above sea level, surrounded by the mountains of Bazum and Pambak. The word Vanadzor is a combination of two words meaning "Valley of Van", Van refers to the historic Armenian city of Van (now in the territory of</p> |

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| | <p>6:00 pm Dinner at WOW Glamping</p> <p>Back to Yerevan city</p> | <p>Turkey). The area of the present-day Vanadzor has been settled since the Bronze Age, which is proved by the tombs and other historical remains found on the hills of Tagavoranist and Mashtots. The area was a part of the Tashir of Gugark; which was the 13th province of the Kingdom of Armenia.</p> |
| Day 8 | <p>8:00-9:00 am Breakfast</p> <p>10:00 am Tour of the Holy Echmiadzin (30 min drive) Visit to the Church Museum (Ter-Paruyr will make a tour at Church Museum)</p> <p>1:00-2:00 pm Lunch at Machanents Art Center</p> <p>4:00 pm Yerevan Wine Days: Optional</p> | <p>The district of the <i>Holy Echmiadzin</i> (one-hour drive from Yerevan) is the “Vatican City” of Armenia as 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 original cathedral was founded in 301 and is one of the first churches in the Christian world.</p> <p><i>Yerevan Wine Days</i> is an event during which you can travel through the rich flavors and traditions of Armenian wine. The most important objective of the Wine Day is to present the eternal history of Armenian wine-making to the world, not only in Armenia but also in the development of festive tourism in the region. By 2023, the festival had 120,000 visitors, of which about 30,000 were tourists.</p> |
| Day 9 | <p>8:00-9:00 am Breakfast</p> <p>10:30 pm Vernissage Shopping</p> <p>1:00-2:00 pm Lunch at Antep lahmajoon restaurant</p> <p>Free time/Final shopping</p> <p>6:00 pm Dinner at Lavash restaurant</p> <p>8:30 pm Entertainment program at Ulikhanyan jazz club or other</p> | |
| Day 10 | Departures | |