

DANCE TOURS TO ARMENIA

May 13-25 & September 16-28 *(the 25th tour!)*

€ 1555

(flight from several European cities included, ticket booked by Tineke van Geel)

€ 1105

(land only)

Surcharge single room €150. All classes & excursions will be in English.

Extensive information and feedback on previous tours can be found on www.tinekevangeel.nl

WELCOME TO ARMENIA - land of stones - ancient monuments - beautiful landscapes - hospitable people - Capital Yerevan with its Mediterranean atmosphere



Wednesday 13/5 or 16/9

Departure from various European cities. Flight via Vienna, Prague or Warsaw. Flights will depart around 21.40-22.30 hrs from these cities to Yerevan.

Thursday 14/5 or 17/9

Early morning (between 4.10-4.45 hrs local time – 2 hrs time difference) arrival in Yerevan.

It is a short drive from the airport to our Guesthouse in Yerevan. Check in and catch some sleep.

Around 13.00 we will have brunch at the hotel (included). You will receive some practical information and a map of Yerevan. After brunch we will get acquainted with the city on foot.

18.30 Walk from the hotel to the restaurant. Dinner included.

Friday 15/5 or 18/9

Breakfast at our Guesthouse is from 8.00-10.00 daily.

9.30-12.00 Dance class with Paylak.

In the afternoon we will visit Geghard monastery and Garni temple, famous sightseeing spots. Impressive nature surround these ancient constructions. The monastery of Geghard is on the UNESCO world heritage list. Part of it is carved right into the solid rock and is an incomparable work of art. Garni temple was built in the 1st century AD by an Armenian king and dedicated to the God of the Sun. Our guide will be present to provide information.

Dinner in Garni village (included).

Saturday 16/5 or 19/9

9.30-12.00 Dance class with Liudvig.

Free afternoon to do some sightseeing in Yerevan. This day offers you an opportunity to visit the Vernisage, a weekend market in Yerevan. Craftsmen sell their products and it is a good place to buy souvenirs.

If you don't want to go shopping, the Matenadaran (Old Manuscripts Museum) can be an interesting place to visit. It is located at a 5 minute walking distance from our Guesthouse.

Likewise worth a visit are the Historical Museum, the Museum of Russian painters, Glass museum near the Cascade etc. A short drive by taxi can take you to the Genocide monument or to Erebuni. Erebuni is the foundation of a fortress and the founding of the city of Yerevan (782 BC). It has a small but very interesting museum with English explanation of the artefacts.

Simply enjoying a drink on one of the many terraces in the green ring of parkland which crosses Yerevan is also very relaxing.

No dinner provided.

Sunday 17/5 or 20/9

9.15 We will visit the ruins of Zvartnots, where the remnants of richly ornamented arches laying on the ground bear witness to its reputation as a masterpiece of medieval architecture.

Many Armenians visit Edsmiadzin Cathedral on Sunday, and we will be able to observe part of Sunday mass while listening to soaring, moving songs from the church choir.

Inside the beautifully decorated cathedral we can admire the work of the famous painter Hovnathan, dating from 1720.

We will be back in Yerevan around lunch time. There is free time to have lunch in a coffee shop or restaurant. If you want to buy a salad or snack: shops are very near to our Guesthouse.

18.00 we will visit a dance performance of Tatul Altunian Dance Ensemble, the eldest professional group in Yerevan (ticket not included –it will be around 6000 AMD which is around € 11/\$ 15) The performance will last for about 2 hrs. After dinner we walk to our restaurant which is close to Republic Square in the city centre. You might want to see the impressive sound and light show at Republic Square which starts around 21.00 hrs. The place to enjoy and to hang out for the inhabitants of Yerevan.



Monday 18/5 or 21/9

9.30-12.00 Dance class with Liudvig.

14.15 We will check out for an extended trip of four days which allows us to explore Armenia's diverse landscapes and ancient monuments. A good chance to discover more regions.

Our first stop will be at Lake Sewan, where we will stay overnight at the lakeshore in apartments, which are part of the Harsnaqar hotel complex. Sewan lies at a height of 2000 m and is surrounded by mountains 3000 m high.

Guided tour to the top of rocky Aghtamar Peninsula, where you have a splendid view over this huge lake. Amidst the scenery there are two churches. You can enjoy a coffee at the restaurant on the lakeshore.

Check in at our apartments.

19.30 Dinner at the hotel (included).

Tuesday 19/5 or 22/9

8.30 Breakfast and 9.15 check out.

Following the shoreline of the lake in a southward direction, we will continue to Noraduz, an ancient cemetery famous for its impressive number of old Khatchkars (carved stone crosses) from the 9th and 10th century.

We continue our tour and visit a house which dates back to the 19th century situated in the village of Zolakar. This primitive type of house is unique in Armenia.

We will have lunch (included) at a private house and a chance to dance with our host.

The landscape will get more mountainous, and we will cross the Selim Pass, at an altitude of 2400 m. This pass was part of the Silk Road; a 14th-century karavansarai is the silent witness of this important period.

Our dinner (included) will be on the way to Yegheknadzor, where we will spend the night with our host families.

Wednesday 20/5 or 23/9

Breakfast with our host families.

This morning we will meet with the local dance group and spend some (dancing) time together.

A relaxed morning at Yegheknadzor. Observe how bread (lavash) is baked in a pit in the floor, according to ancient tradition. Life here is very different from Yerevan. We have fresh baked lavash with some meats and cheeses for lunch before we will leave this small town.

After lunch we travel eastwards and will have a chance to enjoy yet another stunning landscape. We will drive to the caves of Khundzoresk, for centuries occupied by people, and will do some hiking among the impressive landscape of rock formations. After hiking we will have about a 1 hour drive back to Sisian, where we will spend the night at a hotel.

Dinner will be at the hotel (included) and Tineke will lead an evening dance for the 'energetic ones' among us.



Thursday 21/5 or 24/9

After breakfast we have a long drive back to Yerevan ahead of us. To make it more pleasant we will do some sightseeing on our way back. First we will visit Karahountj. This circular arrangement of 204 stones with holes in them has some similarities to England's Stonehenge, but it is older. It is believed to have been an observatory dating back to roughly 1000 BC.

The 2nd stop will be a Noravank monastery, where we will have a guided tour. It is located at the end of a winding road through a canyon. Before reaching the monastery we will have lunch (not included) at the bottom of the gorge. We will be back in Yerevan late afternoon and check in at the Guesthouse. Back 'home' after many impressions! Our dinner will be in Yerevan.

Friday 22/5 or 25/9

9.30-12.00 Dance class with Paylak.

Free afternoon to explore Yerevan. No dinner provided.

Saturday 23/5 or 26/9

9.30-12.00 Dance class with Liudvig: review and videotaping.

At 14.00 our tour will lead us to Talin, a small town in the northwest part of Armenia.

Many immigrants from the former West Armenian region of Sasoun (nowadays in Turkish Anatolia) settled around the city of Talin after the genocide.

We will meet with a local dance group, which has managed to keep its dance heritage alive for almost a century.

This visit offers us the chance to enjoy the company of the villagers and to meet with Armenian hospitality and toasting habits at first hand. We will certainly join some dancing. Besides freshly baked lavash we will undoubtedly enjoy other locally made products.

Back in Yerevan, free night. No dinner provided.

Sunday 24/5 or 27/9

9.30-12.00 Dance class with Paylak - review and videotaping

19.00 Walk to the restaurant for our farewell dinner (included).

If you have missed to visit the Vernissage the previous weekend, this might be the best opportunity to do your souvenir shopping.

Monday 25/5 or 28/9

Departure early in the morning