



25th Anniversary

Trip to Armenia



Mt. Ararat



Light Show & Singing Fountains



Armenian Dance & Song Ensemble



Gums Fruit Market

Have you always wanted to go to Armenia --- or have you been and have been wanting to return? This is the perfect time for you to go. In celebration of our 25th Anniversary we have a very special trip to Armenia planned and we want you to join us for this unforgettable adventure!

From July 17 through July 29, donors and friends of the EyeCare Project will join with Founder, Dr. Roger Ohanesian, along with Project physicians and staff, for a trip to Armenia that you will remember for the rest of your life.

To celebrate our 25th Anniversary, we have planned an amazing adventure for you and all of the friends of the EyeCare Project who have helped bring sight to Armenian eyes for 25 years in this tiny jewel of a country. Armenia, nestled in the Caucasus Mountains, will dazzle you with her natural beauty — fascinating sceneries, snow-capped mountains and dramatic waterfalls — as you tour the main attractions of Armenia in her tiny villages, where time stands still.

Our group will stay at the Grand Hotel Yerevan (Golden Tulip) in the heart of Yerevan, one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities, dating back to the summer 782 B.C. and older than the Eternal City of Rome. You will have opportunities to stroll through Yerevan, which now enjoys a cosmopolitan café culture with charming streets lined with shops and restaurants, and have fun shopping in the wonderful open markets. And while at the hotel you can enjoy time in the sun around the beautiful pool, work out at the well-appointed gym or spend a luxurious day at the first-class spa.

During your trip to Armenia, one of the oldest countries in the world with a recorded history of about 3,500 years, you will experience its spectacular beauty, see historic architecture, tour the monasteries, get to know Armenia's people and their unequalled hospitality, experience the country's rich culture as well as centuries-old traditions and customs and enjoy the unique national cuisine, considered one of the oldest in the world.

The first sovereign nation to adopt Christianity as its official religion in 301, Christianity has shaped Armenia's culture and traditions, its architecture and even its exceptional cuisine. You will visit Etchmiadzin Cathedral, the mother church of the Armenian Apostolic Church, located in Vagharshapat, and we have a special meeting for you with the Catholicos. According to scholars, Etchmiadzin was the first cathedral built in ancient Armenia and is considered the oldest cathedral in the world.

At the core of Armenia's identity is its long Christian heritage — it's said that Jesus' own apostles brought Christianity to Armenia. You will experience this Christian heritage that is represented in the early Christian churches and monasteries, seen nowhere else, which dot the landscape and are traditionally built in dramatic locations on the shores of lakes, overlooking river gorges or on mountain slopes.

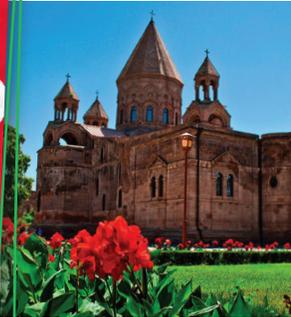
Planned are visits to Armenia's most outstanding monasteries — the Gheghard Monastery, where you will see the spear used at Jesus' crucifixion and the Tatev monastery, which sits spectacularly on a plateau. We will also visit the 1st Century Temple of Garni, a monument to the sun God, which still stands even though most traces of paganism were destroyed.



According to tradition, Noah's Ark came to rest on biblical Mount Ararat after the Great Flood. You will see the most breathtaking views of Mount Ararat from Armenia where it is considered a sacred mountain by Armenians and is the country's principle national symbol.

Awaiting you in Armenia for our 25th Anniversary Mission Trip is a combination of EyeCare Project activities and historical and cultural tours throughout Armenia. You will learn more about the organization you support and how we provide eye care for the people in Armenia. You will also meet the people responsible for the Project's programs — physicians and staff — who work hard to eliminate preventable blindness in Armenia and provide access to eye care for every Armenian in need.

In Yerevan you will have lunch with our staff and visit our subspecialty clinics, the Center of Excellence for the Prevention of Childhood Blindness where we treat babies with ROP and our Education Center and Wet Lab. On an excursion to beautiful Lake Sevan, the second largest freshwater high-altitude lake in the world and the largest lake in the South Caucasus Region, we will tour the Mobile Eye Hospital, have lunch outdoors overlooking Lake Sevan and visit Sevanavank, a monastic complex located on a peninsula at the northwestern shore of Lake Sevan.



Echmiadzin Cathedral



Qasakh Waterfalls



Lunch local home – Lavash bread



Ararat Brandy Factory

A once-in-a-lifetime holiday to Armenia, you will enjoy her spectacular beauty, tour the world's oldest monasteries, get to know Armenia's people and their unequalled hospitality, experience the country's rich culture as well as centuries-old traditions and customs and enjoy the unique national cuisine.

To celebrate the Grand Opening of the Kapan Regional Eye Clinic with local and national dignitaries we will take a short outing and overnight to the villages of Goris and Areni. On our way we will visit historical sites including Tatev and Noravank along with the Medieval Goris Cave Dwellings that have a natural beauty of unparalleled rock formations — ranked as a top attraction in Armenia.

Goris will be followed with wine tasting in the Areni village, situated in the southwest next to Goris, where you will taste the wine — “the noble wine of Areni” — and learn the secrets of good wine-making. The origin of the cultivation of grapes and wine-making in Armenia dates back to the historical past with a wine-making facility unearthed at the Areni-1 cave complex and dated 4,000 BC. Attributed to the unique dry climate and soil, the village of Areni, more than any other location in Armenia, is superior for valuable grapes and wine-making.

To enjoy the warm and wonderful hospitality of Armenians we have a number of social engagements planned for you including lunch in a private home to learn how to make Lavash Bread, a reception with the Minister of Health who will honor EyeCare Project physicians for 25 years of service to Armenia, a meeting with the Catholicos, meet-and-greets with our staff and physicians and dinner with our fellows.

We begin our memorable trip with a Welcome Party and close it out with a 25th Anniversary Gala Party with dinner and dancing. We will also have delicious dinners at some of Armenia's best restaurants to experience their unique cuisine along with evening entertainment including the Republic Square Light Show and Singing Fountains and the Armenian State Dance and Song Ensemble.

Please join us for this once-in-a-lifetime holiday to Armenia to celebrate our 25th Anniversary! We promise you an adventure you will remember for the rest of your life.

For reservations and more information, please contact Leslie at our AECPP office at 949-933-4069. Reservations are limited with a July 1 deadline. We hope to see you in Hayastan!



Armenian EyeCare Project
Bringing Sight to Armenian Eyes