

# Special tour by “Amistad Tour” LTD

**28.05.2010 (Friday)**



## **City tour/Echmiatsin**

Visit Erebuny fortress and Archaeological museum. Lunch at the restaurant.

Visit Matenadaran – State Depository of ancient manuscripts.

Tour to Echmiadzin and after the arrival lunch.

Echmiatsin is the residence of Armenian Catholicos, the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Visit the Cathedral (303 AD). It was originally built by Saint

Gregory the Illuminator as a vaulted basilica in 301-303, when Armenia was the only country in the world recognizing Christianity as a state religion.



St. Hripsime (618 AD) and St. Gayane (630 AD)

churches. Hripsime was one of a group of nuns who lived in Rome under the direction of their superior, Gayane, around 284-305 A.D.

Return to Yerevan.



**59 EUR per person**

**29.05.2010 (Saturday) Khor Virap/Vernisage**

**10:00** Start

Khor Virap is one of the most popular destinations in Armenia for a number of reasons, primarily because it is where Grigor Luisavorich (St. Gregory the Illuminator) was imprisoned for 13 years before curing King Trdat III of a disease. This caused the conversion of the king and Armenia into the first officially Christian nation in the world in the year 301.

**13:00** Lunch at the restaurant under the open sky in Yerevan.

**14:00** Visit to Vernisage in Yerevan



Vernisage is a weekend open market, where in just a few blocks you can see art, carpets, old collections of coins and medallions, jewelry, music, books, carved wood, lace, embroidery, ceramics, posters, food, tools, parts for electronics and even pets. It is open year round, though only on the weekends, except for a rump vernissage held daily at the end of the usual Vernissage venue where it



meets Khanjian Street.

The Vernissage is the perfect place to get a little taste of Armenia and a unique scenario to witness the fusion between national traditions with contemporary taste.

Originally this word represented the inauguration of a temporary exhibition. However, the Vernissage has been proven to be one of the most important and constant elements of Yerevan's cultural life.

It was established in the mid-1980s by Armenian artists who displayed their art in the square in front of the Union of Armenian Artists.

## **61 EUR per person**

**30.05.2010 (Sunday)**



### **Garni/Geghard/Sevan**

**09:00** Start.

**10:00** Arrival to Garni Temple(1<sup>st</sup> c. A.D.). One hour excursion in Garni. During this 1 hour the group will have the opportunity to listen to traditional Armenian music in acoustic hall (special present from Amistad – Tour LTD).

**11:00** Tour to Geghard. In the bus the group will have the opportunity to have a cup of coffee or tea and a piece of Armenian traditional cake (special present from Amistad –Tour LTD).

**11:20** Visit Geghard monastery (12-13<sup>th</sup> cc.) carved in rocky. The group members can sing/hear singing a cappella in the natural acoustic hall of Geghard, carved in rocky, too.

**12:00** Drive towards Sevan.

**13:15** Lunch at the restaurant on the peninsula.

**14:15** Boat tour. During this tour the rest of the group can visit the church just on the top of the peninsula which is called "Surb Mariam".

**16:45** Back to Yerevan.

**18:00** End of the tour.

**72 EUR per person**

