

HISTORIC ARMENIA (August 9 – 23, 2020): Preliminary ITINERARY.

I. BASIC ITINERARY.- CILICIA – CAPPADOCIA (from Lebanon)

Aug. 9 ARRIVAL in ADANA

DAY 0 Meet at the airport and transfer to the hotel. Rest Period. Dinner. Overnight.

Aug. 10 DARSON – GORIGOS – ADANA

DAY 1 Breakfast (08:00). Drive to Gorigos, visiting the castle. Take a boat to the island. Then to **Darson**, visiting

Monday Cleopatra's Gate and the House of St. Paul. To Mersin for lunch (Mediterranean Grills). Back in Adana, visiting the Armenian Quarter across the Bridge. Fresh fruits for supper.

Aug. 11 SIS – HADJEN – Crossing to Cappadocia

DAY 2 Breakfast (07:30). Depart for Sis, the last capital of Cilicia, visiting the Royal Castle and the Catholicosate (Group Photo). Climb the Tauros (*Davros*) mountains towards Hadjen, visiting the ruins of the Castle and the church (Group Photo). Then through a mountain pass, cross to Cappadocia, arriving in Urgup for Dinner. Overnight.

Aug. 12 GESSARIA – TOMARZA – EVEREG

DAY 3 Breakfast (07:30). A morning tour of the extraordinary landscape of Urgup. Depart to Gessaria, visiting the city center and the Castle, where Mourad Boyadjian was hanged. Lunch at the Armenian churchyard (*Basterma, Soujouk*) /Photo. Then to Tomarza, visiting the town and the church. A potential visit to the Armenian village of Jujun. Return to Urgup via Evereg, visiting the Roupinian school and St. Toros church erected in 1913.

Aug. 13 ZEITOUN – MARASH

DAY 4 Breakfast (06:30). Return via **Dzamentav** to Cilicia. In Zeitoun, visit the historic Fountain and the Stone Bridge (*Aryuni Gamourch*). In Marash, Sou Boereg + Ice Cream. Visit the city Castle (*Marashi Pert*), admiring the panorama of Marash and its Armenian quarter. Dinner in Aintab (*Lahmajun/Tan*). Overnight in Aintab.

Aug. 14 AINTAB – HROMGLA – EYBEZ

DAY 5 Breakfast (07:30). Visit the Armenian Quarter and the superb St. Asdvadzadzin church. A special visit to **Hromgla**, once the Seat of the Cilician Catholicosate. Then, via **Hasanbey**, visit **Eybez**, and continue via **Kirkhan** to Antioch, the second capital of Dikran the Great. Optional visits to some Moussa Ler villages. Overnight in Orontes hotel.

Aug. 15 ANTIOCH – MOUSSA LER

DAY 6 Breakfast (08:00). Visit St. Peter's Cave, the world's earliest Christian church. Free time in Antioch. After lunch, to the **Vakef** village, Moussa Ler. Celebration with the local Armenians at the S. Asdvadzadzin church in Vakef, while the famous *harissa* is being prepared, dancing and partying until midnight. Return to Antioch for Overnight.

Aug. 16 BEYLAN – ISKENDEROUN – AYAS

DAY 7 Breakfast (08:30). Depart to Moussa Ler for church service and Harissa. Visit **Beylan** at the crossing of the **Amanos** mountains. In Iskenderoun, visit Karassoun Manoug church. Then via Dort Yol to the Cilician port city of **Ayas** across the Iskenderoun Bay, once called "*Hayots Dzots*". To Adana airport to take the corresponding return flight home.

II. VASBOURAGAN – AYRARAD – GARS – ARDAHAN

Aug. 17 VAN

DAY 8
Monday
Breakfast (07:00). In Adana airport at 08:50 to take the direct flight to Van. Start with visiting *Mheri Tour*, then the city center (lunch) visiting the Museum. Continue to nearby *Varakavank* monastic complex and the *Shoushants* village. An easy climb to *Vana Pert*, overlooking the historic Armenian *Aykestan* quarter. Watch the sunset on the Van lake (Group Photo). Tea at Urartu. Check in the 4* Merit Shahmaran Hotel by the lake.

Aug. 18 AGHTAMAR – DARON – MOUSH

DAY 9
Tuesday
Breakfast (06:30). Visit the *Ardamed* village. Then, via *Vosdan* drive to *Aghtamar*. Take the boat to the island, visiting the superb *Sourp Khatch* cathedral (Group Photo). Driving eastwards by the southern shore of the Van lake, enter *Msho Tashd* via *Tatvan*. Visit *Soloukh Bridge* on the *Aradzani* river (Group photo). Then drive to *Msho Soultan Sourp Garabed*. Return to Moush for overnight.

Aug. 19 KHLAT – ARJESH – PERGRI – BEYAZID – ARARAD

DAY 10
Wednesday
Breakfast (07:00). Visit *Msho Pert*, *Sourp Marine* church in the old Armenian quarter. Drive westwards by the northern shore of the Van lake, passing the *Nemroud* mountain, *Khlat* city, *Sipan* mountain and *Arjesh* city to the *Pergri* waterfalls (Group Photo). Exit *Vasbouragan* through the *Tontrag* mountain pass to *Ayrarad*. Drive down to *Beyazid*, then southwards to the Sim-Er hotel facing the west side of *Medz Massis*.

Aug. 20 IGDIR – GOGHP – ANI – GARS

DAY 11
Thursday
Breakfast (06:30). Drive northwards parallel to the Arax river to Igdirdir and Goghpan. Then continue north parallel to the Akhourian river towards Gars. Visit Ani city, the capital of Historic Armenia, including its Great Walls, the Cathedral, several churches, and the ruins. In Gars city, visit the Armenian quarter, Sourp Arakelots church, the ancient bridge, and the historic Castle (Garsi Pert).

Aug. 21 ARDAHAN – TIFLIS

DAY 12
Friday
Breakfast (07:00). Visit Ardahan and its Castle. Then drive towards Posof to cross the border to Georgia, heading to Tbilisi (Tiflis), the political & cultural center of Eastern Armenia (before 1918). A night stroll in the city besides the Kura river. Overnight.

Aug. 22 TIFLIS

DAY 13
Full Day in Tiflis. Visits to Sourp Echmiyadzin and Sourp Kevork churches, and the tombs of Sayat Nova, Hovhannes Toumanian, Raffi, and many others. Meet local Armenians in the Armenian quarter of Havlapar. Dinner and Overnight in Tiflis.

Aug. 23 LORI – DILIJAN – SEVAN – DZAGHGATSOR – YEREVAN

DAY 14
Sunday
Breakfast (07:00). Watch the Tiflis panorama from the hill of Mother Georgia. Then drive south to Armenia, alongside the Tebet river. Visit the *Sanahin* monastery in *Lori* near *Alaverdi*, Then drive by the Lori Canyon to *Dsegh* and *Vanatsor*. After visiting Dilijan, lunch in Sevan. After a visit to Dzaghgatsor, drive to Yerevan arriving in the evening. END of the Tour at any address in Yerevan, Echmiyadzin or the airport.