

27.09.2017, all day long excursion (09:30 - 19:30)

Yerevan - Dilijan- Haghartsin - Goshavank - Lake Sevan - Sevanavank - Yerevan. Distance: 257 kilometers. Dinner at “Ashot Yerkat” (Ashot the Iron - Armenian king in the X century) restaurant is included in the trip.

Dilijan/Haghartsin/Goshavank



Dilijan

Dilijan is a green city located in the northern Armenian province of Tavush. It is one of the most important and popular resorts of Armenia. Dilijan has a rich historical and cultural heritage.

The Lake Parz is one of the Dilijan’s most attractive natural sites. It has an area of 2 hectares and an average depth of 8 meters.



Haghartsin Monastery

Dilijan’s most popular religious site is the **Haghartsin Monastery** (built between 10th and 13th centuries) which is 18 kilometers north of the city and consists of three churches and dining hall. The monastery was built in the Middle Ages. The oldest of the monastery’s churches is St. Gregory, which was built in the 10th century. The other churches are St. Stepanos (St. Stephen, built in 1244) and St. Astvatsatsin (the Holy Mother of God, built in 1281), date back to the 13th century. There are a number of *khachkars* (traditional Armenian

cross-stones) in the complex. The dining hall (built in 1248) is one of the two remaining facilities of such kind (the other one is in Haghpat Monastery).



Goshavank

Goshavank Historical-Architectural Reservation is situated in Gosh Village, which is 15 kilometers to the east of Dilijan. Goshavank Monastery was founded by Mkhitar Gosh, the famous Armenian scholar, fable writer, thinker and jurist. He was one of the representatives of the Armenian Renaissance. The construction of the Monastery was started at the end of 12th century and was finished in about 100 years. Earlier there was Old Getik Monastery on the place of Goshavank. But the former was destroyed during the earthquake in 1186.

Goshavank was one of the prominent theological and manuscript-writing centers of medieval Armenia. In the seminary were taught law, history, philosophy and arts.

The monastic complex includes St. *Astvatsatsin* Church (the Holy Mother of God, built between 1191 and 1196), fore-church (built between 1197 and 1203), St Grigor Church (built in 1241), St. *Lusavorich* Church (St. Illuminator, built between 1237 and 1241) and library-belfry (built respectively in 1241 and 1291).

Lake Sevan/Sevanavank



Lake Sevan

Lake Sevan is one of the most popular summer places in Armenia and has many resorts, fish restaurants and other interesting places for visitors. Lake Sevan lies at about 2000 meters above sea level, twice that of Yerevan. The air temperature is significantly cooler than in

Yerevan, and the winters much longer. This popular lake is open for visitors in July and August, when it is warm enough to enjoy the beaches and to swim in the water.

The most visited destination of the lake is the peninsula known as *kghzi*, meaning island (initially the peninsula was an island). There is a monastic complex on the peninsula, called *Sevanavank* (the Monastery of Sevan) a.k.a *Mariamashen* (built by Mariam). Tradition claims that the complex was founded by St. Gregory the Illuminator in 305. Nowadays there are two functioning churches. The first, smaller one is Arakelots or St. Karapet Church (built in 874). The second, bigger one is St. Astvatsatsin Church (the Holy Mother of God, built approximately at the same time). There are also many beautiful *khachkars* (traditional Armenian cross-stones) and the ruins of St. Harutyun Church in the territory of the Monastery. Sevanavank was one of the most important educational centers in Armenia starting from the end of 9th century.



Sevanavank