

# PC(USA) Jinishian Memorial Program Study Tour to Armenia

## Tentative Itinerary

All trips subjected to change in itinerary and/or cancellation

Responsible person in USA: Sara Todd, JMP PC(USA) Associate for Program Management

Responsible person in Armenia: Eliza Minasyan, JMP Armenia Country Director

DATE	ACTIVITY	DETAILS	OVERNIGHT
<b>Day 1</b>	<p>Arrival to Yerevan International Airport</p> <p>Check in at the Hotel Ani</p> <p>17:00 City walking tour (short)</p> <p>19:00 Dinner at Art Bridge Restaurant</p>	<p><b>Hotel Ani</b> website: <a href="http://www.anihotel.com">www.anihotel.com</a></p> <p><b>Yerevan</b> is the capital of Armenia situated on the Hrazdan River, north-east of the Ararat plain. The population of Yerevan is estimated to be 1,107,800 people. The history of Yerevan dates back to the 8th century BC. Yerevan is a city of Christian cathedrals, modern airports, theatres and museums, universities and academies, parks and research labs, squares and industrial sites</p>	Yerevan
<b>Day 2</b>	<p>8:00 - 9:30 Breakfast at the hotel</p> <p>10:00 Tour to Echmiadzin city, Visit to Vocational Education project at Cross of Armenian Unity Art Center NGO.</p> <p>13:00-14:00 Lunch at the Art Center NGO</p> <p>14:30 Site seeing at Echmiadzin Church, Museum of treasures, remnants of Pagan temple. Church service</p> <p>19:30 Dinner in Yerevan city Café Central</p>	<p>The district of <b>Holy Echmiadzin</b> (1 hour drive from Yerevan) is the Vatican City of Armenia and the center of the Armenian Apostolic Church. It is the seat of the Catholicos of All Armenians and the most populous city in Armavir province, about 20 km west of Yerevan. The cathedral, the oldest Christian temple was found in 301 and is one of the first churches in the Christian World.</p>	Yerevan
<b>Day 3</b>	<p>8:00–10:00 Breakfast at the hotel</p> <p>10:00 – 12:00 Visit to JMF office. Tour orientation and introduction</p> <p>11:30 Trip to Lukashin village of Armavir Region. Visit to Micro lending Support to Farmers Economic Development projects.</p> <p>13:00 Lunch with the farmers. Try newly grown ecologically clean and fresh fruits and vegetables from the gardens.</p> <p>18:00 Back to Yerevan</p> <p>19:00 Dinner in Yerevan</p>	<p><b>JMF Micro-Lending Project</b> provides affordable loans to farmer cooperatives to support a small farmers and agricultural development. Nearly 50% of Armenian’s workforce is involved in agriculture.</p>	Yerevan
<b>Day 4</b>	<p>8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast at the hotel</p> <p>9:00 Trip to Odzun village. Meeting with Father Vrtanes/ Spiritual uplift and Education project for children and the local</p>	<p><b>Vanadzor</b> (2 hours drive from Yerevan) is the third largest city in Armenia with a population of 107,394. It lies at the confluence of the Pambak, Tandzut and Vanadzorigot rivers in northern Armenia.</p>	Yerevan

	<p>school.</p> <p>12:00- 13:00 Lunch at the priest's house with the priest's family</p> <p>Visit to Community Mobilization Initiative projects Tcater and Arevtcag villages. Meet with project beneficiaries.</p> <p>Site seeing at Odzun</p> <p>19:00 Dinner in a way back</p>	<p>Vanadzor's history dates back to the Bronze Age, with interesting tombs and other material found now in the local museum.</p> <p>The <b>Spiritual Education and Experiences for Children</b> project aims to develop and enrich knowledge on Christianity and Christian traditions, fostering of spiritual and moral conviction of children from remote villages of Armenia.</p> <p>The <b>Community Mobilization Initiative</b> projects empower communities to mobilize internal and external human and financial resources to find durable solutions to their socio-economic problems.</p> <p>The magnificent 7th century <b>Odzun church</b> is situated in the north of Armenia in the village of Odzun (3 hours drive from Yerevan) built by Catholicos Hovhannes of Odzun. According to a legend, one day, when Hovhannes was at prayer, two dragons fell upon his residence. Hovhannes made the sign of the Cross before them and the two dragons instantly turned into stone. These stone dragons exist today.</p>	
<p><b>Day 5</b></p>	<p>7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast at the hotel</p> <p>8:30 Departure to Goris city of Sunik Region</p> <p>Khor Virap</p> <p>Noravang Monastery</p> <p>13:00-14:00 Lunch in Noravanq</p> <p>Tatev Monastery site seeing</p> <p>19:00 Check-in and dinner at Mirhav Hotel of Goris town</p> <p>Goris city tour</p>	<p><b>Khor Virap</b> (1 hour drive from Yerevan) is a place of pilgrimage for Armenians all over the world, where Armenian pagan king Trdat imprisoned Saint Gregory the Illuminator for refusing to acknowledge the Goddess Anahit. From here one can enjoy the majestic view of Mount Ararat</p> <p><b>Noravanq Monastery</b> (1.5 hour drive from Yerevan), situated on a ledge over Arpa River gorge surrounded by fantastic red rocks, was founded in the place of an ancient monastery and took on special significance as a cultural and religious center in the 13-14<sup>th</sup> cc. On the territory of the complex there are several khachkars of original design the most valuable of which is a 1308 khachkar by Momik.</p> <p><b>Tatev monastery</b> (2 hour drive from Jermuk) is in Syunik region, on the edge of a gigantic canyon. It is celebrated by its university, which was active in 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> cc and at times had about 300 students and over 500 fellow religious leaders, philosophers, musicians, writers, etc.</p> <p><b>Goris</b> (4 hour drive from Yerevan) is situated in the southern region of Syunik, in the volcanic highlands (3552 m) on the left bank of the Vorotan River. Its population is estimated to be 23,200 people. For adventure seekers, for romantics and fantasists the primary attraction of Goris is the "Rock Forest".</p>	<p>Goris city, Sunik Region Mirhav Hotel</p>

<p><b>Day 6</b></p>	<p>8:00 – 9:00 Breakfast at the hotel</p> <p>9:00 Departure to Shushi town, Nagorno Karabakh</p> <p>Shushi City tour and visit to Ghazanchetsots Church Shushi fortress Shushi canyon</p> <p>Lunch with bishop Pargev, a JMF partner, at the Armenian Apostolic Church prelaty in Shushi</p> <p>15:00 Visit to Support to Disabled in Karabakh Health Development project at The Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre, Stepanakert city</p> <p>Check in at Heghnar hotel</p> <p>Platan tree 2000 years old</p> <p>Stepanakert city tour and dinner</p>	<p><b>Nagorno Karabakh</b> (2 hour drive from Goris) is typical mountainous country occupying 4,400 sq km of area., Estimated number of population is 200,000; it is worth to mention that the first church was founded here by Grigor the Illuminator in Amaras, the first school was created by Mesrop Mashtoc, inventor of Armenian alphabet.</p> <p><b>Stepanakert</b>, nestled in a bowl of mountains, is the capital of Karabakh. It has a population of 40,000 residents. The main tourist site in Stepanakert is in the outskirts near the approach to the town from Shushi, the monument called popularly “Tatik &amp; Papik” (Grandmother and Grandfather).</p> <p><b>Shushi</b>, the ancient Stronghold of Nagorno Karabakh is situated in the center is 12 kilometers away from Stepanakert. Its territory is 400 hectares. One of the most glorious pages (the May 9, 1992 - the heroic victory of the Armenian People in the Karabakh war liberation) is associated with Shushi and for every Armenian the first and the main meaning of the word <i>SHUSHI</i> is <i>VICTORY</i>.</p> <p><b>Ghazanchetsots Cathedral</b> in Shushi is a large monument, the face of which is covered with local finished white limestone. The majestic dome leans on four pillars. The exterior ways are luxurious; there are ornament-carvings everywhere, especially on the arches of doors and windows.</p>	<p>Stepanakert city, Nagorno Karabakh</p> <p>Heghnar hotel</p>
<p><b>Day 7</b></p>	<p>8:00 – 9:00 Breakfast at the Heghnar hotel</p> <p>9:30 History Museum of Karabakh</p> <p>11:00 Visit to Gandzasar Monastery</p> <p>13:00 Lunch in Gandzasar</p> <p>14:00 Village Nurce training project visit in Stepanakert</p> <p>Trip back to Yerevan</p> <p>Dinner at Vorskan restaurant on the way to Yerevan</p> <p>22:00 Check in at the hotel in Yerevan</p>	<p><b>Gandzasar Monastery</b> (1216-1238) is located in the Mardakert District of the Nagorno Karabakh. Gandzasar (treasure mountain) is a walled abbey the centerpiece of which is the Cathedral of St. Hovhannes Mkrtych, a large church with a cupola in the inscribed cross plan.</p> <p>1600-17:00 Stop in Goris city for rest and meeting kids from Kapan (Lois)</p>	<p>Yerevan</p>
<p><b>Day 8</b></p>	<p>Breakfast at the hotel</p> <p>Free time</p> <p>11:00 – 12:30 Matenadaran (Armenian manuscripts Museum)/</p> <p>13:00 Lunch in Yerevan</p> <p>14:00 Garni Pagan Temple and Geghard Monastery</p>	<p><b>Garni Pagan Temple</b> was built in 1st. c AC and devoted to one of the Armenian Pagan Gods – Mitra. It is the only example of the Hellenistic culture on the territory of Modern Armenia and Caucasus. The structures of the fortress of Garni are in perfect harmony with the surrounding nature. The fortress is situated in a picturesque mountain locality and commands a broad panorama of orchards, fields and mountain slopes covered with motley carpets of varicolored grasses, of the jagged and precipitous canyon of the Azat</p>	<p>Yerevan</p>

	19:00 Dinner free  Concert (optional)	river.  The Monastery of <b>Geghard</b> (the Lance) is located 40 km southeast of the city of Yerevan in the mountainous region of Kotayk. Inscriptive and documentary references to the monastery, also known as Ayriivanq, date from the 7th and 10th centuries, respectively. The spectacular towering cliffs surrounding the monastery are part of the Azat river gorge, and are included together with the monastery in the World Heritage Site listing. It is famous for its rock-carved chapel of St. Astvatsatsin on which the earliest inscription is dated 1164 AD.	
<b>Day 9</b>	8:00 – 10:00 Breakfast at the hotel 10:00 – 11:30 Vernissage 11:30 Yerevan city tour Mother of Armenia Monument 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch in Yerevan Genocide Memorial Museum 19:00 Dinner	<b>Vernissage</b> (walking distance from the city center) is an open air market of local handicraft jewelries, carpets, art work, carved wood ornaments, etc.	Yerevan
<b>Day 10</b>	8:00 – 9:00 Breakfast at the hotel 10:00 Trip to Mountain Aragats Site seeing at Amberd fortress complex 13:00 Lunch 15:00 Armenian cognac tasting at Yerevan Cognac Factory Free time 19:00 Dinner in the city Singing fountains of Yerevan	<b>Mount Aragats</b> in Armenia, northwest of Yerevan and north of the Ararat Plain. The highest point in both Armenia and the <u>Lesser Caucasus</u> range (13,418 feet [4,090 m]), Aragats is a circular, shieldlike mountain composed of both lavas and tufas. A <u>volcanic cone</u> of recent geologic age lies atop far older rocks.  <b>Amberd is a fortress complex</b> with a church built on the slopes of Mt. Aragats at 2,300 meters above sea level in the XI-XIII centuries. The name translates to "fortress in the clouds" in Armenian. The site where the fortress sits presently started as a Stone Age settlement.	Yerevan
<b>Day 11</b>	8:00 – 9:00 Breakfast at the hotel 9:30 Visit to Civil Dialogs and Actions project at Gavar Town at a lake Sevan. Visit the orphanage  Lunch boxes  Visit to the Youth Engaged in Society project in the school. Participate in school debates on the hot topics concerning Armenia and learn school students' opinions.  18:00 Dinner at lake Sevan Ashot Erkat restaurant (local trout and	<b>Gavar Town</b> , the regional capital of Gegharkunik, formerly known as Kamo, has a population of 36,400 and area of 240.56 km <sup>2</sup> . It is a lovely city near Lake Sevan in the Armenian highlands, situated in the eastern slopes of Geghama mountain range. Many of the ancestors of the inhabitants of Gavar arrived in 1830 from the town of Bayazet of Western Armenia. Fabled monuments dating back to the Bronze Age adorn the region, a testimony to the presence of Armenians in the region for thousands of years. There are cyclopean fort remains all around the city, particularly one 5 km E of Berdi Glukh.  <b>Lake Sevan</b> (1 hour drive from Yerevan), known in the ancient times as the Geghama Sea, is the "blue-eyed beauty" of Armenia. Being one of the biggest highland freshwater	Yerevan

	sigafish)	lakes in the world it is 1900 m above sea level. One of the most interesting sites in Sevan is the monastery on the rocky peninsula founded in 874 AD by King Ashot I and his daughter Mariam.	
<b>Day 12</b>	<p>8:00 – 9:00 Breakfast at the hotel</p> <p>9:00 Trip to Shirak region, Gyumri city. Visit to Civic Dialogs and Actions project at the State University of Gyumri</p> <p>13:00 Lunch in Gyumri city with students</p> <p>Yntaniq Art Center</p> <p>19:00 Dinner in Yerevan at Tifozy pizza place</p>	<p><b>Gyumri</b> (2 hours drive from Yerevan) is the second city of Armenia and one of the oldest cities in the world. It exists more than 2 500 years and is known as the center of traditional Armenian architecture, science, tourism. The inhabitants have gained the reputation of hospitable hosts with rich sense of humor.</p> <p><b>Civic Dialogue and Action project</b> assists in empowering university students to become active citizens in their communities, addressing civic issues.</p>	Yerevan
<b>Day 13</b>	<p>Breakfast at the hotel</p> <p>13:00 Lunch at the hotel</p> <p>Free time and departures</p>		Yerevan