

St. Nino's Way
Armenia & Georgia in 8 days
Combined Tour

A trip through Armenia, the cradle of humankind serving the highland for the sources of the four rivers of the Garden of Eden, the Land of Noah crowned with Mount Ararat, a country that has a Church founded by the two apostles of Christ, the first state to proclaim Christianity as its religion as early as in 301. In the same time, Georgia the neighbor Christian country declared Christianity as a state religion short afterwards in 319.

The proclamation of Christianity is directly connected with a group of nuns called Hripsimean nuns, who left Rome and had their final refuge in Armenia, though one of them, St. Nune or Nino continued her way and became the enlightener of Georgia.

This short glimpse of Armenia and Georgia gives you the insight of the life and culture from a completely different perspective. It includes destinations not very much known, or known destinations from the unknown side.

Itineraries

Arrival in Zvartnots airport,
transfer to the hotel in Yerevan

Day 1. 45km

Breakfast at the hotel
Trip to Etchmiadzin visiting UNESCO World heritage cites:
St. Hripsime, St. Shoghakat & St. Gayane Churches of the nuns
Mother Cathedral of Etchmiadzin, Museum of Relics,
Lunch in Ethnographic environment
Visiting the ruins of Zvartnots Cathedral
Welcoming Dinner
Overnight in Yerevan (B/L/D)

Day 2. 80km

Breakfast
Yerevan City Tour
Visiting a living parish
Choral singing concert
Lunch in the parish
Trip to Geghard monastery founded by St. Gregory the Illuminator
Historical site of Garni – summer residence of Armenian kings and queens
Free Dinner
Night Fountain show in the Republic Square /optional - in warm season/
Overnight in Yerevan (B/L)

Day 3. 250 km

Breakfast

Khor Virap Monastery viewing Mt. Ararat-

The place, where St. Gregory the Enlightener of Armenia was imprisoned

Noravank – masterpiece of Armenian architecture in beautiful nature

Lunch

Visiting Areni wine factory with wine tasting –

Wine production history here goes back to several millenia

Return to Yerevan

Free Dinner

Overnight in Yerevan (B/L)

Day 4. 150km

Breakfast

Oshakan St. Mashtotz church – Armenian alphabet

Lunch in Ashtarak by a 7th c. church

Trip to the North of Armenia

Farewell Dinner

Overnight in Gyumri (B/L/D)

Day 5. 190 Km

Breakfast in the Hotel

Departure to Georgia towards Ninotsminda.

Meeting on the Georgian side.

Visit to the Monastery of Poka on the way to Tbilisi.

In the monastery revived the old technique of Byzantine cloisonné

Due to the belief St. Nino followed this path to the old capital of Georgia – Mtskheta.

Welcoming dinner in Tbilisi.

Overnight in Tbilisi. (B/L/D)

Day 6. 80 Km

Trip to Mtskheta – old capital of Georgia (UNESCO world heritage site)

Visit to Samtavro nunnery - due to the legend

St. Nino lived here preaching Christianity.

Svetitskhoveli Cathedral (XI c) – the main seat of

Catholicos-Patriarkh (head) of Georgian Orthodox Christian Church.

Lunch

Short trip to the winery – to learn traditions of Georgian wine making and culture.

Visit Jvari Monastery (VI c) (UNESCO world heritage site)

Free dinner.

Overnight in Tbilisi. (B/L)

Day 7. 330 Km

Breakfast

Journey to Sighnaghi.

Visit to Bodbe Monastery with grave of St. Nino

Nearby from the Monastery is the miraculous spring with bathes

Tour to Sighnaghi

Lunch

On the way back to Tbilisi visit of the

Cave monastery of David Gareja (VI century)

Free dinner.

Overnight in Tbilisi. (B/L)

Day 8. 50 Km

Breakfast

Tour in Tbilisi:

- visit to the oldest basilica in Tbilisi – Anchiskhati (VI century);
- Cathedral church of Sioni where is kept the St. Nino's Cross;
- The main and biggest church in Georgia - Trinity Church;

Lunch

Visit to Holy Father David Monastery on Mtatsmind (Holy mount)

Visit to the National Historical Museum

Farewell dinner

Transfer to the Tbilisi International Airport. (B/L/D)

Saying Good Buy with Hope to See You Again!

The tour package price in 2012: **990 Euro** p.p. /min. 10pax/

Included in the price:

- Accommodation:
 - 4 nights in 4* hotel in Yerevan in DBL/TWIN room basis;
 - one overnight in Gyumri;
 - 3 nights in 4* hotel in Tbilisi in DBL/ TWIN room basis.
- All meals mentioned in the itinerary
- Professional Guide
- Entrance fees
- Local guiding
- Transportation with professional drivers in comfortable vehicle with air conditioning. Some walking is also part of itineraries
- Transfer to the Airport and border
- Tourist Portfolio
- Cultural events

Excluded:

- Other activities not included in the itinerary
- Alcoholic drinks
- Air Ticket
- Insurance
- visa cost
- Tips