THE WORSHIPFUL SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES LIVERY COMMITTEE
The Livery Committee International Travelling Club presents

Armenia 2020
SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER TO SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2020

Located in the southern Caucasus, between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, Armenia is a country of rugged mountains and extinct volcanoes. Its national symbol is Mount Ararat, which is linked with the biblical accounts of Noah’s Ark. Once an important crossroads on the Great Silk Route, it became the first country to adopt Christianity in 301AD, and the country is still dotted with medieval churches and monasteries. Our tour will take in exotic scenery, sacred and historical buildings, as well as enjoying Armenian hospitality.

In the early 1920’s the Armenian Soviet architect Alexander Tamanian transformed Yerevan, seen here, from a small provincial town to a compact capital city of wide boulevards and neoclassical buildings, blending Soviet design with unique Armenian touches such as the use of pink stone and traditional carvings.

Our Programme

SUBJECT TO LOCAL CONDITIONS OR UNEXPECTED RESTRICTIONS

DAY 1 Sunday 27 September
Aeroflot SU2571 Heathrow T4 08:50 / Moscow 14:40
Aeroflot SU1862 Moscow 16:15 / Yerevan 20:10
Transfer to 4* Hotel Hyatt Place. Dinner and overnight.

DAY 2 Monday 28 September
On today’s long drive our first stop is at the C17th Khor Virap Monastery, with its stunning views of Mount Ararat. After lunch, the spa town of Jermuk, the source of Armenia’s drinking water, with the biggest waterfall in Armenia. Dinner and overnight Grand Resort Jermuk.

DAY 3 Tuesday 29 September
Today we visit the Tatev Monastery, once the most important medieval monastery in Armenia, reaching it by the world’s longest non-stop double track cable car, 3½ miles long, the “Wings of Tatev”. After lunch, we see the prehistoric archaeological site, Zorets Karer, known as Armenia’s “Stonehenge”.

DAY 4 Wednesday 30 September
Today we visit the Tatev Monastery, once the most important medieval monastery in Armenia, reaching it by the world’s longest non-stop double track cable car, 3½ miles long, the “Wings of Tatev”. After lunch, we see the prehistoric archaeological site, Zorets Karer, known as Armenia’s “Stonehenge”.

DAY 5 Thursday 1 October
First, we see the Selim Caravanserai built in 1332, by Prince Chezar Orbelian for weary travellers on the silk route. After lunch (on the shores of Lake Sevan, the highest freshwater lake in the Caucasus) we take a boat trip to visit the Sevanavank Monastery on a peninsula high above the lake. We return by coach to Yerevan. Dinner & overnight Hotel Hyatt Place.

DAY 6 Friday 2 October
The Matenadaran (officially the Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts) is named after the inventor of the Armenian alphabet and has the world’s largest collection of medieval Armenian manuscripts. Then a complete change: a visit to the Armenian Genocide Museum, which commemorates the extermination and expulsion of 1.5 million ethnic Armenians from 1915-1923 by the Ottoman government, though most were Ottoman citizens. Lunch, then return to the hotel. In the evening we will attend a performance at the Opera House which is included in our arrangements. Dinner and overnight at the Hotel Hyatt Place.

DAY 7 Saturday 3 October
The modern and the ancient! First the Arch of Charents (1957) named after the famous Armenian poet. Then UNESCO World Heritage site, the monastery of Geghard (from the peak of Armenian medieval architecture in the C4th). The churches and tombs are cut into the rock. We will enjoy a professional performance of Armenian sacred songs. After lunch, a Greco-Roman temple at Garni (C1st), on a cliff which overlooks the Azat Gorge and the Gegham mountains, the only survivor of the pre-Christian period in Armenia. Farewell Dinner and Overnight Hotel Hyatt Place.

DAY 8 Sunday 4 October
Markets today; food, souvenirs, and a visit to the National Art Gallery.

TOUR INCLUSIONS:
- Scheduled Aeroflot flights in economy class.
- All airports taxes and duties.
- Accommodation Yerevan: half board including drinks for 5 nights (first 2 nights and last 3 nights) - 4* Hotel Hyatt Place has fitness centre, lap swimming pool.
- Accommodation Jermuk: half board including drinks for 2 nights – 5* Grand Resort has Spa, swimming pool, gym and sauna.
- Entry fees to all sites in the programme.
- All gratuities (except for the guide and driver).
- Porterage at the hotels.
- Complimentary bottled water available on the coach.
- “Whispers” Audio guiding system.
- Excellent Bradt guide book on Armenia.
- The services of your tour director.

Not included: anything not specified as included above.

This visit is proposed by Chris Khoo, on behalf of the Livery Committee International Travelling Club and will be possible if we have a minimum of 35 participants. If you are interested in joining us, please complete the enclosed booking form and send it to Millennium Tours together with your deposit payment. Maximum numbers will be limited and bookings are accepted on a first come, first served basis.

1) TOUR PRICE £2,195 PER PERSON SHARING.
2) SOLO TRAVELLER SUPPLEMENT £395 (DOUBLE ROOM FOR SINGLE USE).
3) DEPOSIT REQUIRED £350 PER PERSON PAYABLE UPON BOOKING.
4) OPERATED BY MILLENNIUM TOURS LTD – ATOL 10040.

Millennium Tours Director Tony Giambruno will accompany us.