

Travel with
The Met

the Armenian
Museum of America



Treasures & Traditions of Armenia & Georgia

with Dr. Helen C. Evans, Mary and Michael Jaharis Curator for Byzantine Art

May 6-17, 2019



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Dear Travelers and Friends,

The Armenian Museum of America is proud to present a new partnership with the Museum Travel Alliance to offer a wonderful travel opportunity for our members. Join us as we embark on an unforgettable trip to Armenia this spring to explore the region's many World Heritage sites, enjoy world-renowned hospitality, and admire the natural beauty of this spectacular country and culture.

This trip will also include members from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Helen Evans, the Mary and Michael Jaharis Curator for Byzantine Art and The Cloisters at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, will be traveling with us. She is looking forward to sharing the area's medieval monasteries and masterpieces, as well as its fascinating 20th century history. We will also be greeted locally by museum curators, artists, and professionals in their fields. This access to experts is one of the features offered by the Museum Travel Alliance.

This trip will offer a new experience for those who have traveled to Armenia, as well as for those who will be traveling for the first time. By experiencing this region and culture through the eyes of a Met curator, and by mingling with members from both the Armenian Museum and The Met, you will gain new insight into the ancient and enduring culture of Armenia.

This is a wonderful way for us to continue our mission to share Armenian culture and heritage with our members. We hope you will join us on this awe-inspiring journey.

Sincerely,

Michele M. Kolligian
President
Armenian Museum of America



Traveling with You

Dr. Helen C. Evans

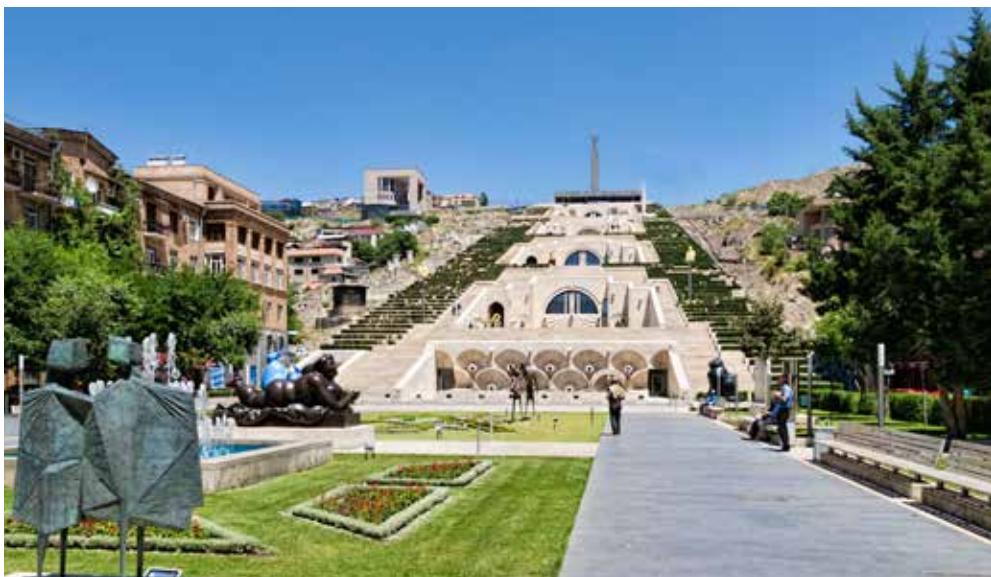
Dr. Helen C. Evans, the Mary and Michael Jaharis Curator for Byzantine Art in the Department of Medieval Art and The Cloisters at The Met, has traveled widely in Armenia and Georgia in the preparation for several of her exhibitions and to advise institutions in both countries. Most recently her exhibition *Armenia!*, currently open at The Met, explores Armenian art and culture from its homeland at the base of Mt. Ararat across the globe. Previously Dr. Evans co-curated the Morgan Library and Museum's 1994 exhibition, *Treasures in Heaven: Armenian Illuminated Manuscripts*. At The Met, she curated *The Glory of Byzantium (843-1261)* in 1997 and *Byzantium: Faith and Power (1261-1557)* in 2004.. Dr. Evans received her B.A. with Honors from Newcomb College of Tulane University and her M.A. and Ph.D. from The Institute of Fine Arts, New York University.

Trip Highlights

- Gain special access to sites and institutions that contributed to The Met's *Armenia!* exhibition, curated by Helen Evans
- Trace the influence of Byzantine art and culture through these early Christian nations
- Explore spectacular ancient monasteries, many in dramatic mountain settings
- Experience Armenia's unique musical traditions at a private demonstration of polyphonic singing
- Enjoy an exclusive wine tasting in a hilltop village in Georgia, where wine production dates back 8,000 years



Etchmiadzin, Armenia, photo by Rita Willaert



Photos clockwise from top right: regional map; Armenian Manuscript Bifolium, 15th century. Illuminator Minas (active in region of Vaspurakan (now eastern Turkey). Tempera and gold leaf on paper. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of Linda Barker and Lore Hilburg, in memory of their mother, Judith E. Hilburg, 2014 [2014.740]; Armenian Bowl, 18th century. Silver, enamel. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Theodore M. Davis Collection, Bequest of Theodore M. Davis, 1915 [30.95.7]; lavash making, Garni; Bridge of Peace and Old Tbilisi, photo by Alex Travel; Cafesjian Center for the Arts, Yerevan, photo by Dan Lundberg. Front cover: Cathedral at Etchmiadzin altar frontal, photo by Hrair Hawk Khatcherian. Back cover: Geghard Monastery (detail of Khatchkar), Armenia, photo by Adam Jones (top); Khor Virap Monastery, Armenia, photo by Hrair Hawk Khatcherian (bottom).

Treasures & Traditions of Armenia & Georgia

May 6–17, 2019

Departure

Monday, May 6

Depart by air for Yerevan on an overnight flight with a connection.

Yerevan, Armenia

Tuesday, May 7

Arrive this evening in Armenia's capital city of Yerevan, situated on the Razdan River, for check-in at the centrally located Armenia Marriott Hotel on Republic Square.

Yerevan

Wednesday, May 8

Begin the day with a visit to the studio of a *duduk* player (a wind instrument made from the wood of the apricot tree) who will introduce us to this region's rich musical heritage. At the National History Museum, discover its rich collection of prehistoric, Bronze Age, and medieval artifacts. The museum was a major lender to The Met's exhibition. Following free time for lunch, visit the museum dedicated to the Soviet Armenian film director and artist Sergei Parajanov. Gather this evening for a lecture by curator Helen Evans, followed by a welcome dinner.

B, D

Zvartnots / Etchmiadzin

Thursday, May 9

Discover some of Armenia's marvelous medieval monasteries and cathedrals starting with the impressive ruins of the 7th-century Zvartnots Cathedral and the nearby Saint Hripsime Church, also from the 7th-century and one of the oldest in the country. Continue to Etchmiadzin, the patriarchate of the Armenian Church, where we will admire the collections of its Treasury and museum. Items from the museum are featured in The Met's exhibition. After lunch, return to Yerevan for a free evening.

B, L

Khor Virap / Noravank

Friday, May 10

Drive to the Khor Virap monastery to learn about its rich history. Built during the reign of the Arshakids Dynasty, it was at one time used as a pit-dungeon, and Saint Gregory the Illuminator, who introduced Christianity to Armenia, was imprisoned there. From here we can see the legendary Mount Ararat.

Continue to Noravank for lunch and a visit to the monastery, a great religious and cultural center of the 12th century. Return to Yerevan this afternoon.

B, L

Geghard

Saturday, May 11

Explore the popular pilgrimage site of Geghard, a medieval complex including churches and chapels built beside and into the surrounding cliffs. Here we will enjoy a private demonstration of Armenia's renowned polyphonic singing. At the temple at Garni, view evidence of Roman occupation of the area, with its well-preserved mosaics. See *lavash* (Armenian flatbread) being made for our lunch. The balance of the day is at leisure in Yerevan. You may wish to attend a performance this evening.

B, L

Yerevan

Sunday, May 12

During a last day in Yerevan, view the collections of the Matenadaran, a repository of medieval manuscripts and books on history, medicine, literature, theology, and more, many of which were loaned to The Met's exhibition. Continue to the Cafesjian Center for the Arts, with its dynamic collection of contemporary art and sculpture for a visit and free time for lunch. Stop at the Armenian Genocide Memorial before returning to the hotel. Dine together at a popular restaurant this evening.

B, D

Yerevan / Tbilisi, Georgia

Monday, May 13

Admire views of Lake Sevan and the Dilijan National Park en route to see the early church and funerary monuments at Odzun. Continue to the dramatic Haghpat

Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the 13th century this monastery, which includes a renowned library, was among the largest religious and educational centers in Armenia. In the afternoon cross the Georgian border to Tbilisi, one of the most ancient cities in the Caucasus and Georgia's capital almost continuously since the 5th century. It has long been an important stop on the international trade route and has many ties to Armenia. Check in at the historic Tbilisi Marriott; dinner is at the hotel.

B, L, D

Tbilisi

Tuesday, May 14

Spend the day exploring Tbilisi. See the Metekhi Church of the Virgin and tour the excellent collection of icons at the Museum of Fine Arts with a specialist. A walk in the Old Town includes the synagogue, the 13th-century Armenian church, the old Georgian cathedral, and the new Bridge of Peace. After lunch at leisure, visit the Open-Air Museum of Ethnography, featuring houses and traditions from around the country. This evening feast on Georgian specialties, followed by a traditional performance.

B, D

Tbilisi / Bodbe / Sighnaghi

Wednesday, May 15

Overlooking the vivid green of Alazani Valley and the Caucasus Mountains, the 9th-century Bodbe Monastery is dedicated to St. Nino, who converted the Georgians to Christianity in the 4th century. The working nunnery still draws many pilgrims to the saint's tomb. Sample Georgian wines during lunch in the attractive town of Sighnaghi. Return to Tbilisi in the early evening. Alternatively, enjoy light hiking in a spectacular mountain setting during a day trip to the village of Stepantsminda. From here,

More Travels with The Met

Cuba by Sea Aboard *Variety Voyager* January 24–February 1, 2019

Alluring Arabia Featuring the Louvre Abu Dhabi February 8–20, 2019

China, Classical to Contemporary Featuring Art Basel Hong Kong March 22–31, 2019

Castles & Collections of the Celtic Isles: Dublin to Edinburgh Aboard *Sea Cloud II* July 6–17, 2019

For details, please go to metmuseum.org/travel

you can view Holy Trinity Church, built in the 14th century at an elevation of over 7,000 feet, and Mount Kazbeg, one of the most beautiful peaks in the Caucasus.

B,L

town. Then continue to Gori and visit Joseph Stalin's birthplace and museum. Return to Tbilisi, where we celebrate a fascinating trip during our farewell dinner tonight. B, L, D

Tbilisi / Mtskheta /Gori

Thursday, May 16

Visit Mtskheta, Georgia's former capital and a spiritual center since the dawn of Christianity. Discover the impressive 11th-century Cathedral of Svetitskhoveli, one of the holiest sites in Georgia, and the 6th-century Dzhvari Cathedral, with its magnificent view over the

Tbilisi / Return

Friday, May 17

Depart the hotel early this morning for the flight home. B

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.



Metekhi Church, photo by Alex Malev

Accommodations

Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan

Centrally located on Republic Square, the Marriott Yerevan is a sophisticated modern hotel behind an elegantly carved stone façade. On-property amenities include soundproof rooms, three restaurants serving international cuisine, and a spa with a beauty salon and fitness center.



Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan

Tbilisi Marriott

This historic hotel, built in 1915, is near Tbilisi's major landmarks and features a fitness center and two restaurants serving international and French cuisine. Rooms offer deluxe bedding, a marble bathroom, and modern technology.



Tbilisi Marriott

Treasures & Traditions of Armenia & Georgia: May 6-17, 2019

Reservation Form

To reserve a place, please call The Museum Travel Alliance at 212-324-1893 or 855-533-0033, fax: 212-344-7493; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *The Museum Travel Alliance*. Mail to: The Museum Travel Alliance, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd floor, New York, NY 10018-3721. Please note: Travelers must be a member of the Armenian Museum of America. To join please visit www.armenianmuseum.org.

Name(s) in full. Please print.

Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (home) _____ (business) _____

Fax _____

Email _____



For additional information, please call 212-324-1893 or 855-533-0033

Accommodations

Hotel room preference One bed Two beds Single

I wish to share a room with _____

Form of Payment

Check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*) Debit card Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at <https://museumtravelalliance.com/faq.php> as detailed in program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.

Signature (required)

Yes, I am a member of the Armenian Museum

Date

Signature (required)

Yes, I am a member of the Armenian Museum

Date