

Jim Gold International Folk Dance & Cultural Tours

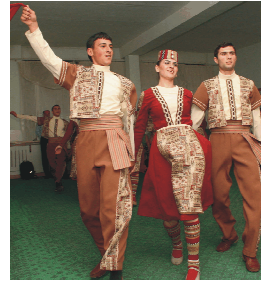
Armenia!

Folk Dancing, Folk Music, Culture, Art, History, Adventure !

May 4-15, 2014

with

Tineke van Geel



- ★ Explore the Armenian capital of Yerevan!
- ★ Armenian folk dancing with local Armenian teachers, live music, and Tineke van Geel!
- ★ See Lake Sevan, Garni temple, Geghard monastery, Zvartnots, and Edsmiadzin Cathedral!
- ★ Visit the 11th century Amberd fortress!
- ★ Enjoy beautiful nature on slopes of Mt. Aragats!
- ★ Price includes accommodations, private bus transportation, guides, sightseeing, all breakfasts and five dinners.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Sunday, May 4: Fly to Yerevan on airlines of your choice.

Day 2: Monday, May 5: Arrival in Yerevan. Check in at Yerevan State University Guesthouse. Walking tour with Tineke. Welcome dinner in restaurant Mer kjour with live music!

Day 3: Tuesday, May 6: Morning: Armenian dance class with Liudvig. (Each class will have live music!). Afternoon visit to Garni temple and Geghard monastery. Impressive nature surrounds these ancient constructions. Built in the 1st century AD, Garni temple was dedicated to the God of the Sun. Geghard monastery is a UNESCO world heritage site with art work is carved into the solid rock. Dinner.



Day 4: Wednesday, May 7: Morning Armenian dance class with Tineke. Afternoon visit to the fortress complex of Amberd, situated on the slopes of Mt. Aragats, 2300 meters above sea level with a church built in the 11th-13th centuries. Guided tour and time to enjoy the beautiful nature. Dinner in local restaurant.(dinner not included).

Wednesday, May 14: Armenian dance class with Liudvig. Free afternoon for shopping, sightseeing or packing luggage. Evening dinner at restaurant Mer kjour.

Day 5: Thursday, May 8: Armenian dance class with Liudvig. Afternoon explore the excavation of Erebuni and its museum. Walk to the restaurant for dinner (not included).

Day 6: Friday, May 9: Armenian dance class with Tineke. Drive northwest to Sasnashen. Near the city of Talin many villages were established by refugees after they left Anatolia in 1915. The village people have kept, cherished, and, passed on dances from the old country. Meet the local children's dance group and villagers; see how lavash (traditional Armenian bread) is baked, enjoy the famous Armenian hospitality as we taste many home made products. Return to Yerevan. No dinner provided, free night.



Day 7: Saturday, May 10: Armenian dance class with Liudvig. Afternoon free to visit Vernisage, a weekend market in Yerevan where craftsmen sell their products. A good place to buy souvenirs. Matenadaran (Old Manuscripts Museum) and Historical Museum are also wonderful places to visit. Evening dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 8: Sunday, May 11: Morning excursion to Zvartnots and the Edsmiadzin Cathedral.

Remnants of ornamented arches bear witness to Zvartnots' reputation as a masterpiece of medieval architecture. Edsmiadzin is the religious center of all Armenians. Armenians visit the cathedral on Sunday. Observe Sunday mass while listening to magnificent singing from the church choir. Within the cathedral, admire the paintings of Hovnathan, dating from 1720. Afternoon free time to visit the weekend market, Genocide Monument and its museum, or walk to the Glass Museum near the Cascade close to our hotel. Or simply enjoying a drink on one of the many terraces in the green ring of parkland crossing Yerevan. We'll meet for dinner in a local restaurant.



Day 9: Monday, May 12: Last Armenian dance class with Tineke. Check out of Guesthouse. Overnight on the shores of Lake Sewan in Hotel Harsnaqar. Sewan is surrounded by mountains 3000 meters high. Guided tour to the top of rocky Aghtamar Peninsula for a view of this huge lake and its two churches. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 10: Tuesday, May 13: Morning departure. Follow the shoreline south to Noraduz, an ancient cemetery with its famous 9th century Khatchkars (carved stone crosses), then visit a 19th century primitive village house unique to Armenia. Lunch at a private house in Zolakar and a chance to dance with our host. Then drive across the Selim Passan altitude of 2400 m. This pass was part of the Silk Road; a 14th-century karavansarai is silent witness of this important period. After passing mountains in southward direction, we will visit the stunning Noravank monastery with its impressive natural surroundings. After a guided tour, we'll return to Yerevan. No dinner provided.



Wednesday, May 14: Last Armenian dance class with Liudvig. Free afternoon for shopping, sightseeing or packing luggage. Evening Farewell dinner at restaurant Mer kjour.

Day 12: Thursday, May 15: Morning departure Yerevan. Fly home.

Visit www.jimgold.com to see YOUTUBE tour and folk dance videos !

About Tineke van Geel



Tineke van Geel is born in the Netherlands. Supported by scholarships of the Dutch Ministry of Education and Culture, she studied and lived in Armenia for longer periods. Visiting the country since 1985 she has established a wide network of contacts and works as a professional folk dance teacher all over the world. She has been guest teacher in the United States, Canada, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Australia and 15 European countries. In 2006 the Armenian Government granted her an award for her 'unbounded commitment to make Armenian dance and culture known abroad.' Tineke conducted 15 tours to Armenia with international attendance thus offering her participants a chance to have an inside view in Armenian life, visiting hidden places. Meeting local dance teachers and musicians, observe traditions in the village are essential parts of the tour. But this ancient country also offers beautiful nature and impressive historical monuments. Let's discover Armenia!

Land Only: \$3250

REGISTRATION: I can't wait to go! Enclosed is my registration deposit of \$200 per person. Single Supplement: \$395. Additional charges: \$85 hotel taxes and service. **Gratuities not included in the price.** Program subject to change without notice. Cancellations 30 to 45 days prior to departure: Refund 50% of total price. Less than 30 days: No refund. Travel insurance strongly recommended. **Total balance due February 5, 2014.**

Name _____
Address _____
No. of people _____ Phone(_____) _____ Email _____

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