

ARMENIA

GUIDEBOOK

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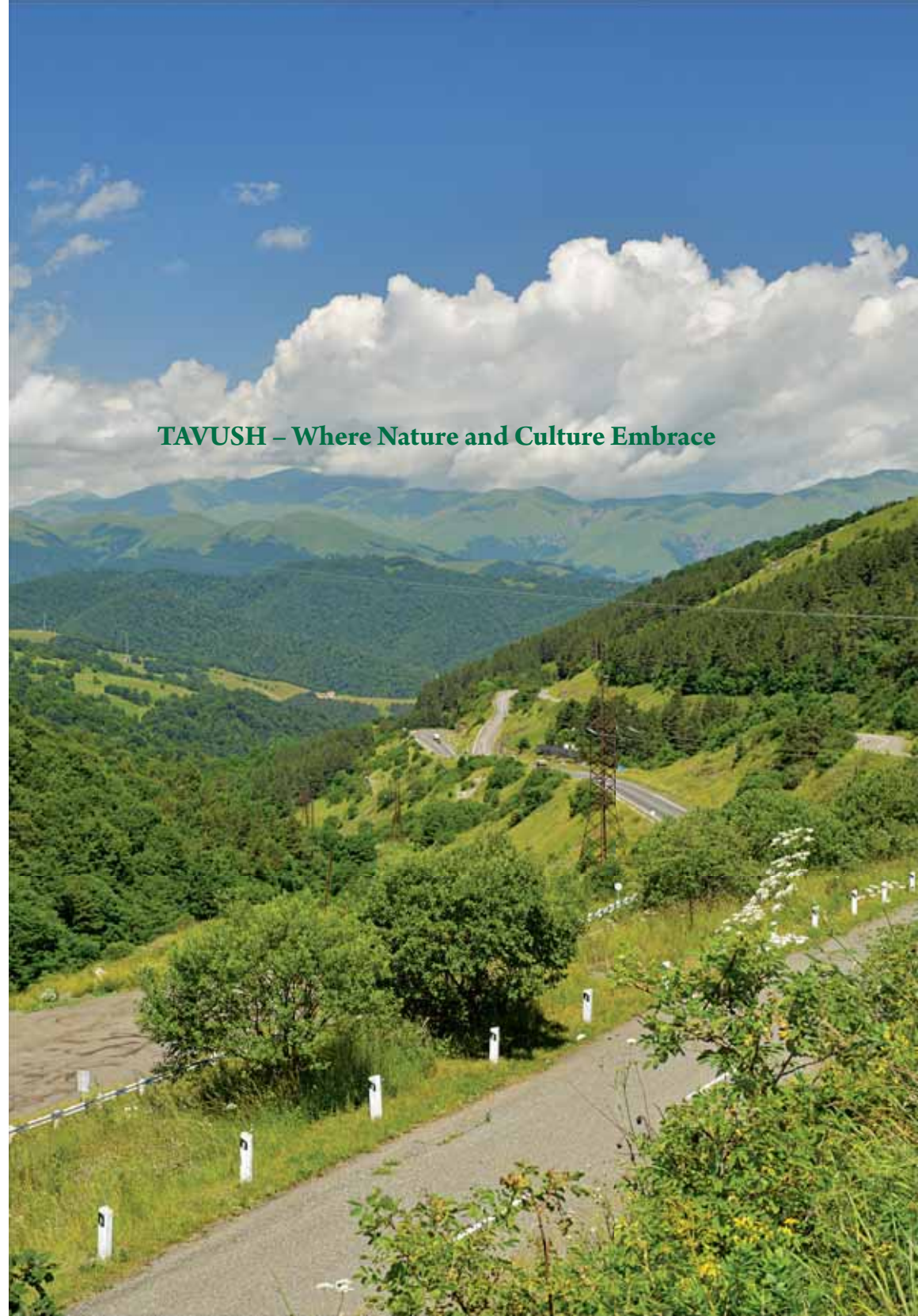


Developed by USAID EDMC Project Short Term Consultant
Svetlana Dingarac

Contributors: Anna Arakelyan, Mushegh Petrosyan, Anahit Ghazanchyan

Field assistant: Mushegh Petrosyan
Project coordinator: Anna Arakelyan
Project assistant: Armine Sargsyan
Photos by Svetlana Dingarac
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TAVUSH – Where Nature and Culture Embrace



FOREWORD

Imagine a place with rocky hillsides coated with the green carpet of Alpine meadows, dense forests that treasure tiny emerald lakes and deep gorges with white-water rivers coursing through the region. Put this together with series of rolling vineyards and blooming orchards wrapped up in a mild sub-tropic climate. Then sprinkle it all with monasteries and fortresses largely overtaken by nature, and you will begin to form a picture of Tavush. The province lies in the northeastern corner of Armenia and is considered by many, the country's most remote area. There's not a lot to it – barely 75 km from tip to toe, but the nature of Tavush is quite extraordinary. You could easily drive across the province in 2 hours, or spend a week exploring its treasures and be left wanting more.

The history of Tavush region begins from the Stone Age and is shaped by the multitude of mountain tribes which inhabiting the region in prehistoric times, as well as Armenian princely families and the Georgian kings setting up residence in the Middle Ages. From the beginning, the area was known as the “middle land”, and served as a source of wood, clay and felsite, creating a buffer zone between Armenia and its eastern enemies.

Dilijan resort nestled within Dilijan National Park is the major draw to the province. Known as the “little Armenian Switzerland”, the town was a famous summer resort in Soviet times and a favorite resting place for writers and artists. Ijevan, the capital of the province, still holds the fame of the silk route inn in its name, and recalls the days when the caravans passed through its gates. To the east are the largely isolated heights of the Shamshadin region, with the dormant town of Berd, while the north holds some of the lowest lands in the country.

To visit the region is to understand the unique amalgam of nature and rich history that intersect at each step. The best-known historical sites are the Haghartsin, Goshavank, and Makaravank Monasteries of the 11th-13th centuries, but a series of other remote sites, particularly the cluster of monasteries in the forest near Acharkut, as well as the monasteries that circle the Hakhum Mountain range, allow one to relish the wild scenery and adventure of reaching them.

Tavush begs outdoor escapade with its large canvas of picturesque landscapes etched so perfectly together. Grab boots, toot the bike bell, speed up your jeep, and let spirits rip. Hiking and biking trails abound in both Dilijan National Park and Ijevan State Sanctuary, but many new routes are developing in other parts as well. Horseback riding, bird watching and even rock climbing complete the offer of outdoor activities. If all this sounds a bit much, you can always switch to wine tasting, farm visits and, off course, arts and crafts, so cherished and loved throughout the province.



NATURAL ATTRACTIONS

Tavush is very rich in nature, which resulted in the largest number of specially protected areas in the country. Mixed forests comprise 40.3% of the total surface with great variety of fauna and flora and natural monuments.

Dilijan National Park

Dilijan National Park is well known for its forest landscapes, rich biodiversity, medicinal mineral water springs, natural and cultural monuments. The park is located in the southwestern corner of the province and comprises 33,765 hectares of protected land. It stretches over the slopes of the Pambak, Areguni, Miapor, Ijevan, and Halab mountain ranges at the altitude of 1070–2400 m above sea level. Dilijan National Park was created in 2002 on the basis of the previous state nature reserve, with the aim to protect the beech and oak forests, unique yew stand, Caucasian black grouse, brown bear, and other species as well as natural and historical-architectural monuments. The park is a habitat for 977 species of high vascular plants, including 5 endemics of Armenia as well as more than 220 species of vertebrate animals. Natural heritage sites include the yew grove of Akhnabat, the beech woodlands of Haghartsin, the oak woodlands of Khachardzan, Lake Parz and Lake Gosh (Tzlka). The most important cultural monuments are Haghartsin Monastery (10th-13th cc.), Goshavank Monastery (12th-13thcc.), Jukhtak Vank (11th-13th cc.), Matosavank Monastery (10th -13th cc.), Aghavnavank church (11th c.). The visitor center, located in the National Park's building, provides licensed guides, nature observation kits, bicycles and tents.



Akhnabat Yew-tree Grove

Akhnabat yew-tree grove was established in 1958 on an area spanning 25 ha. It is located on southeastern slopes of the Miapor mountain chain, in the Basin of Getik River, at an altitude of 1400-1800m above sea level. A unique yew-tree grove is under conservation there.

Lake Parz

Lake Parz ("Crystal Lake") is situated 9km east of Dilijan at a height of 1400m. It covers an area of 2 ha and is 18m deep. Lake Parz is considered one of the most beautiful places in Dilijan. It inspires not only the tourists, but also the locals who frequent its shore.

Lake Gosh

Lake Gosh is located west of Gosh village. The lake spans 1 ha and is 6m deep. The lake used to be known as Lake Tzrka because of its many leeches. Tzrka comes from tzruk, which in Armenian means leech. When an invasive species of fish was introduced to the lake, the leeches disappeared. Nowadays, the lake is a popular picnic destination.

Ijevan Sanctuary

The sanctuary was created in 1971 and covers an area of 5908 ha. The main aim of establishment is the protection of rare and valuable forest animals.

"Zikatar" State Sanctuary

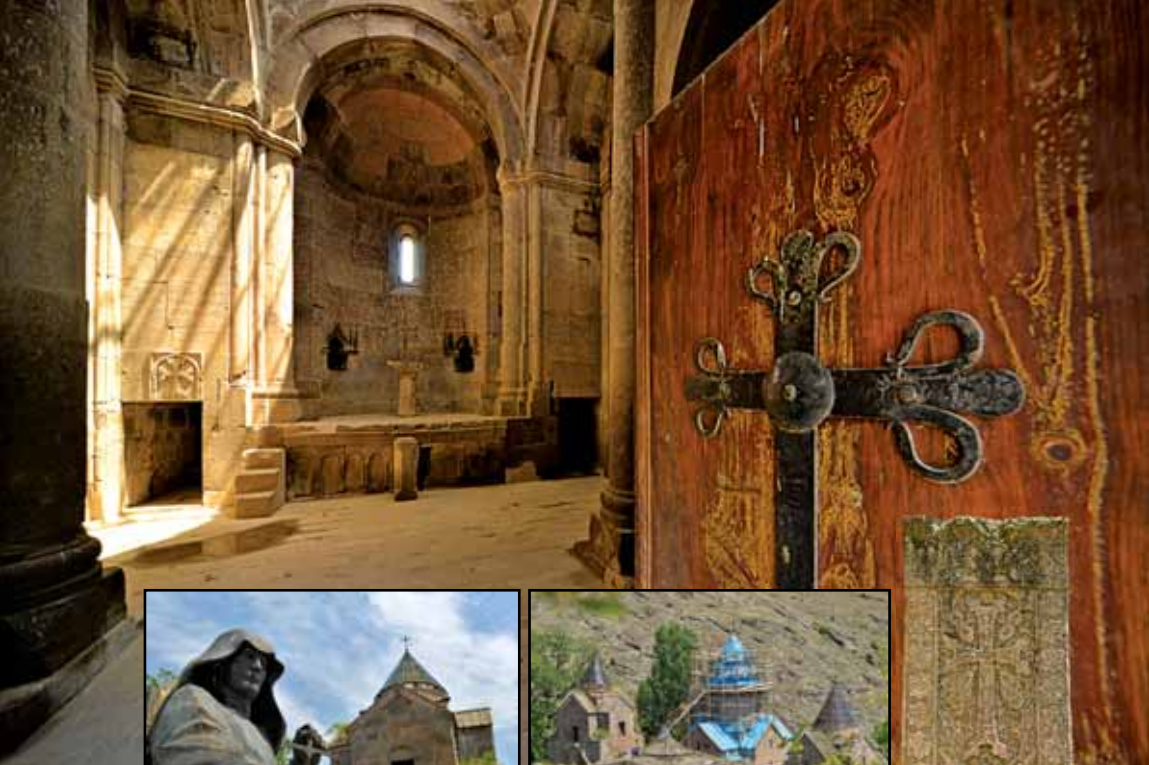
"Zikatar" State Sanctuary is located in the Noyemberyan region. The protection zone covers the upper flow of the Koghb River, as well as the northeastern slopes of the Zikatar Mountain of the Gugarats Mountain Range. The sanctuary was established in 2010, and occupies the area of 150 ha, with an altitude ranging between 1150 and 1450m above sea level. The main objective of the sanctuary is the protection of specific flora and fauna of the forest ecosystems of Zikatar Mountain, as well as its rich historical heritage.



HISTORICAL AND HERITAGE ATTRACTIONS

Haghtsin monastery (10th-13th cc.)

Restored in the 2010, the 10th century Haghtsin monastery, recalls the medieval Armenian kingdom at its height. The complex lies in lush forested mountains 12km to the east of Dilijan and is comprised of four churches, two chapels, a huge dining hall and multiple khachkars. The architecture of the dining hall is particularly noteworthy and is considered to be an outstanding exemplar of its type. The oldest sundial in Armenia, which shows when it is time to pray, can be found on one of the walls of the monastery. The monastery has a small photo exposition in the dining hall and a resident priest who sometimes conducts tours.

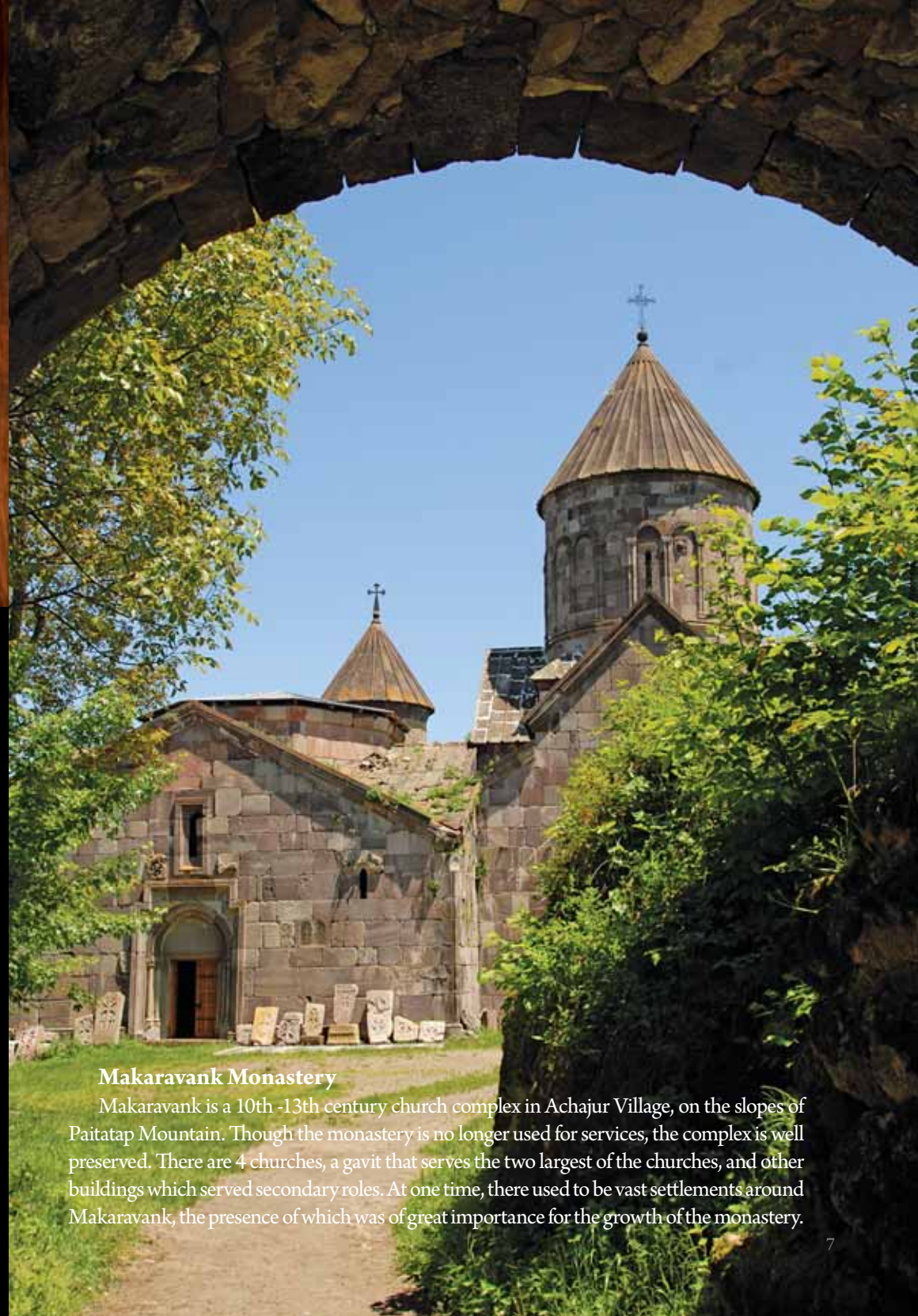


Goshavank Monastery (12th-13th cc.)

The monastery of Goshavank (Nor Getik) was founded on the right bank of the Getik River in 1188 by the renowned Armenian scholar, jurist and fabulist Mkhitar Gosh. The monastery of Goshavank includes the churches of St. Astvatsatsin (1196), St. Grigor (1231), St. Grigor Lusavorich (1241), a scriptorium (1291) and a school (13th c.). Many beautiful khachkars have been preserved in Goshavank. Historical sources mention the existence of a university and a seminary in this monastery where many manuscripts were created and preserved.

The Legend of Nor Getik

The vardapet (priest) Mkhitar the Beardless was an honest and well educated man, the prime example of moral purity and perseverance for all Armenians. When he moved to the ancient monastery of Getik, science and crafts flourished at the monastery and it became a tremendous spiritual center. One night an angel came to him in a dream and said "Listen carefully Mkhitar, you will have a good harvest seven years in a row. You must fill your stocks with grain, because after that you will have seven years of drought." So, for seven years the monastery stocked the grain, and then the rains stopped and plants died. Mkhitar crafted a round bowl called 'goosh' and began to ration the grain out to the residents, equally and fairly. The grain lasted seven years. It was due to the round bowl that he used, that they nicknamed him Goosh (Gosh). The monastery Nor-Getik was called Goshavank after him.



Makaravank Monastery

Makaravank is a 10th -13th century church complex in Achajur Village, on the slopes of Paitatap Mountain. Though the monastery is no longer used for services, the complex is well preserved. There are 4 churches, a gavit that serves the two largest of the churches, and other buildings which served secondary roles. At one time, there used to be vast settlements around Makaravank, the presence of which was of great importance for the growth of the monastery.



DILIJAN REGION

Mountainous Dilijan region, known as the “Little Armenian Switzerland”, is one of the most picturesque and pleasant parts of Armenia. Dense forests, curative mineral springs, clear lakes, and wonderful highland sceneries of Dilijan National Park are a magnet for tourists and nature lovers from all over the country. Moreover, the experience of natural beauty is accompanied by the discovery of historical monuments, such as the many monasteries the region has to offer.

Dilijan town, the nearest point of entry to the province, had been a renowned resort place for centuries. During Tigran the Great (140-55 BCE), Dilijan was as a hunting ground and holiday resting house for kings. In the Middle Ages, the territory of Dilijan was known as Hovk. It was a favorite forest and summer resort for the Arsacid kings which came here to show their abilities in hunting. The settlement of Bujur Dili was founded during the 13th century near the area of modern-day Dilijan. In 1666, the name Dilijan was mentioned for the first time in the notes of the French traveler Jean Chardin. Since the town became under the Russian rule in 1801, the population had gradually grown. In its heyday during the Russian Empire and then the Soviet Union, Dilijan was favored by artists, composers and filmmakers, who came here to inspire creative thought. This rich artistic heritage and exposure to the international cultural elite can still be seen throughout the town, which houses several museums, as well as music and art schools.

However, because of social and economic changes in Armenia, Dilijan experienced a period of severe hardship after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Today, Dilijan has begun to recover its former glory. With the opening of UWC Dilijan School, the Ayb Educational Foundation, and the Central Bank of Armenia, Dilijan is becoming an increasingly popular tourist destination and an important center for business and finance. The town has a number of fine hotels, B&Bs and old Soviet sanatoriums, making it probably the best place to stay for an extended exploration of the province.



Dilijan is known for its characteristic architectural style which inherently utilizes steep tiled roofs and wooden beams. This can be best seen in the “Old Dilijan” Historic Centre, a little cobbled street with a collection of stone and wooden traditional buildings, including a boutique hotel with a restaurant, shops, souvenir stalls and workshops for local craftsmen. The complex includes the Dilijan Historic Museum, with a replica of a 19th century Dilijan home, furnished with period furniture, photographs and crockery, as well as a collection of handmade carpets.

Nearby is the impressive building of the Geological Museum and Art Gallery of Dilijan. This recently renovated museum houses a surprisingly varied collection of European and Armenian art from the 16th to 20th centuries. Some of the older works from Italian and French artists had been housed in museums in Moscow and St. Petersburg but were moved to Dilijan during WWII for safekeeping.

The monasteries of Haghartsin and Goshavank were built between the 10th and 13th centuries. The monastery complexes have quickly developed and have served as cultural and educational centers. Haghartsin is one of the iconic examples of the developing Armenian architecture during the Middle Ages. Many other important religious and educational centers of the Middle Ages have survived in Dilijan, such as the monasteries of Jukhtak Vank, Matosavank and Aghavnavank.



IJEVAN REGION

The central part of Tavush is comprised by Ijevan region, named after the town of Ijevan, the capital of the province. It received the city status in 1961. Before that it was a small settlement in the valley of Agstev River. The settlement was founded in the end of the 18th century and was called Karavansarai (it was named Ijevan in 1920)

Surrounded by forested mountains and with the Aghstev River running through its center, Ijevan is also a popular resort city, though not as much as Dilijan. Thanks to its mineral water springs (numbering over 20), Ijevan turned into a major health center with numerous rest homes and sanatoriums providing treatment and prevention of respiratory tracts, gastro enteric and other problems. Ijevan is also famous for its traditions of carpet weaving on the basis of which the large carpet factory was opened there during the Soviet times (unfortunately it doesn't operate at the moment). Another historical moment is also connected with the Soviet period – Ijevan was the place where the decree on the establishment of Soviet power in Armenia was signed.

The local climate is warmer than Dilijan, and the town is the center of a fruit-growing and wine-making district. The town has a sculpture park, a winery, a tiny historical museum and a lovely dendropark with 750 species of trees and shrubs from all over the world.

Yenokavan village is situated 10 kilometers to the North-west from the center of Ijevan. To reach the village from Ijevan-Noyemberyan highway, turn left onto Yenokavan road at the statue of Mother Armenia. The village has around 550 residents and is situated at a height of 1000-1300 meters. The village has some very ancient churches, as well as the ruins of four fortresses nearby. Of the fortresses, the most prominent is the Astghi Blur, or Star Hill, located ten kilometers from the village, and positioned on a manner that affords a view of all the other fortresses around the village. During the excavations that were conducted in 1965-66, Bronze Age thrones and other items were found that belonged to the 10th-8th cc. B.C.

Yenokavan village is surrounded by hills and lies at the edge of a forest-covered gorge. This is the lushly wild and deep Sarnajur Canyon, which ranges for about five kilometers. With the river rushing through the canyon, there are cliffs, caves, forests, waterfalls and rapids to explore.

With the opening of two interesting eco and active sport venues, the spot became one of the most popular hiking destinations in Armenia. One is the "Apage" Active Rest Club, which offers hiking and horse riding tours. The other is a campground with amenities built in the middle of the canyon.

The main attractions of the canyon are the caves where from the earliest times of Christianity Armenian hermits devoted themselves to solitude, prayer and writing. The Anapat Caves in particular were a pilgrimage stop, and have a style of pre-Christian carvings which are unique in Armenia. The complex itself consists of 2 big monuments. First of them, to which leads the "Devil's Bridge" is called Small Anapat and is a two-storied construction of the 13th century carved in a cave. The territory is known also under a second name – Lastiver. Small Anapat is an absolutely wonderful creation of man's hands. The images of famous zoomorphic symbols of Christianity – God's lambs, as well as subjects from the scene of "good torments", dating back to pagan times but adapted to canons of new religion, have something in common and in harmony

Three kilometers north of Dilijan, on the left bank of Bldan River, is the monastery of Jukhtak Vank (12th-13th cc.) comprising of two churches; hence the name of the monastery since "joukht" means a pair". The church of St. Astvatsatsin was built in 1201 with a domed hall. The second church of St. Grigor is of the same type (the drum is not preserved). It is maintained that the church of St. Grigor was built earlier than the church of St. Astvatsatsin.

On the wooded slope somewhere opposite to Jughtak is Matosavank monastery (13th c.). The complex consists of 3 buildings and there is a medieval cemetery not far from it. The small church, dedicated to St. Astvatsatsin of Pghndzahank (1247 AD), was built under Avag Zakarian, son of Ivane, after he had pledged submission to the Mongols and become the Georgian-Armenian military leader for Mangu Khan, grandson of the great Genghis.

Continuing south of Gosh toward Chambarak (Gegharkunik), one reaches the Aghavnavank village while crossing an early bridge on the Getik River. The village lies next to the Akhnabat Yew Grove State Reserve and is a starting point of a trail which leads to Anapat Astvatsatsin church (11th-13th cc.), known as Aghavnavank. There is a tree not far from the church which people call "The Tree of Wishes". It is customary to tie napkins and hang them on the tree so that the wishes will come true.

with carved crosses and images of saint martyrs. The second floor of the cave complex, where the travelers can get through a narrow 3-meter passage cut in a stone, also casts highly artistic motifs. There is a pond taking up most of the cave, whose water level is believed never to change - even if you remove water, it immediately returns to its previous level.

Makaravank Monastery of the 10th century is in Achajur village, 16km north of Ijevan. This purple and green stone complex in the forest above the village is a very popular pilgrimage destination.

The Monasteries of Arakelots, Deghdznuti, Samsoni and Kirants are situated along the Kirants and Samsoni River valleys west of the Kirants village. All four are well worth a visit, and combined make an awesome day of biking or jeeping. Of course, that is if you can find them in the lush vegetation!

Arakelots Vank (the Monastery of the Apostles) is a 13th century monastery located roughly 2km southwest of the village of Archakut. The monastic complex sits upon the crest of a hill surrounded by a dense forest on the left bank of the Kirants River. With interesting fortifications, and a singular “piled stone” roof in one of the chambers, it distinguished itself as a unique monastery in a land of monasteries. Approximately 80 meters downhill from the monastery are the ruins of a 13th century caravanserai. The ruins of a chapel sit on the next hill as well. Supposedly, two kilometers northeast of Arakelots Vank, on a flat area on the mountain ridge, is the little church and khachkar of Khndzorut.

Kirants Monastery (8th c.) is located about 10km SW of Kirants village and 7km SW from the Arakelots Vank, which is also located in the same valley. The story behind Kirants is extraordinary. This church, unlike all other monasteries built in Armenia, is constructed mostly by brick and mortar and has a colored tile decoration. “Kir” is the word for mortar and “-ants” brings meaning that the mortar is uneven.

The Legend of Kirants Monastery

There is a tragic love story explaining how “Kirantsi Vank” got its name. There was a rich man living in the village who had a very beautiful daughter. A master craftsman, who was well known for his talents, had fallen in love with the girl. However, he came from a very poor family and he knew that he would have difficulties convincing her father to allow him to marry her. Finally, the rich man promised he would give his blessing if the craftsman would build him a church. The craftsman agreed and built the beautiful church. When the church was almost finished the rich man came to see how the works were progressing. The craftsman, who was at the moment on the top of the dome, asked the rich man how did the church look? The rich man responded that it looked great, but “kiren antsa”, which meant that the line of the brick and mortar was uneven. The craftsman realized that the rich man had no intention to keep his promise and jumped from the dome taking his own life.

To reach the remote and semi-ruined **Deghdznuti Monastery**, cross the Kirants River via the Zayghoshani bridge with Persian inscriptions, and take the road that goes south. The monastery has a collapsed dome, but the arches are still standing, as well as the intricate carvings on the portal.



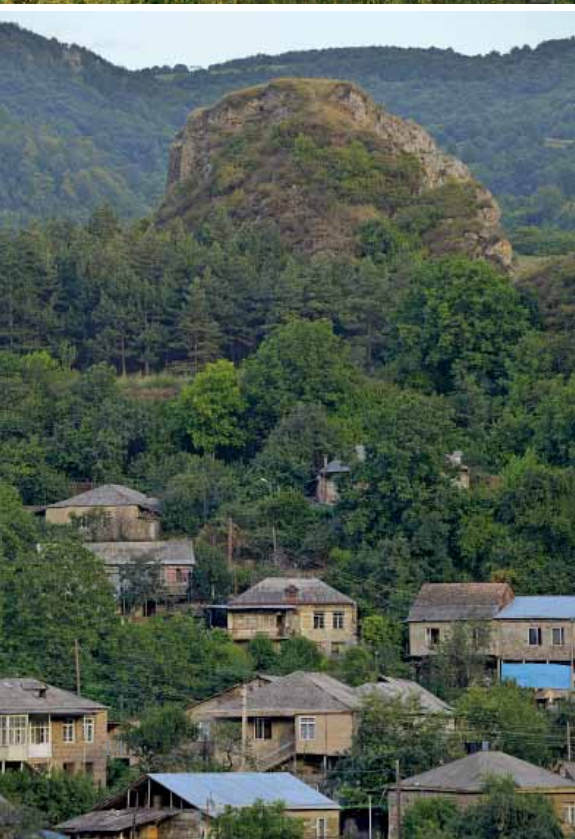
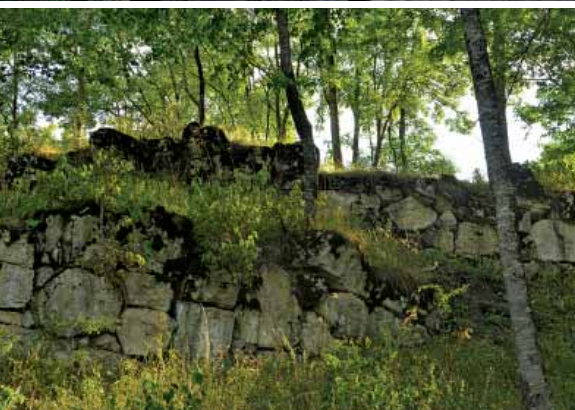
Samsoni Monastery is a 12th-13th century monastery easiest reached via Yenokavan.

It is a small monastic complex located in a forested area along the slopes of a mountain approximately 6km to the south of Deghdznuti Vank of the 13th century, and not far from the medieval fort of Berdakar.

Tsrivzi Monastery or Moro-Dzoro is located northeast of Ijevan, near the village of Lusahovit. The monastery dates from the 5th-12th centuries. An inscription on its walls records that king Georgi of Georgia (1156–84) freed the monastery from taxes and endowed it with land. The dome of the St. Astvatsatsin church was rebuilt in 1213 by Atabek Ivane Zakarian. The church was restored in 1980s. Nearby is the medieval settlement of Tsrivzi, with khachkars.

Some smaller and less significant but impressive churches in the area include the village churches of Gandzakar and Yenokavan, as well as Ijevan's own smaller new church.

Above the village of **Hovk** (N), high on the Ijevan Mountain range, archaeologists have recently discovered a first in Armenia Mesolithic monuments, a site believed to have been settled by Neanderthals. Artifacts uncovered at these sites include Upper Paleolithic tools, a Mousterian blade, a Bronze Age fireplace, Neolithic pottery, Mesolithic microlith made from obsidian, Mousterian limestone flakes & nucleus, a Mousterian point from obsidian & additional flakes and scrapers from the Stone Age open air site. According to the preliminary conclusions of archaeologists, the Ijevan hollow and the Agstev river canyon were settled at the least 200,000-40,000 years ago.



TAVUSH (SHAMSHADIN) REGION

A remote and beautiful Tavush region, the former Shamshadin district, is comprised of three deep river valleys - the Hakhum, Tavush, and Khndzorut, all running from the Miapor Mountain Range, with high ridges in between. The region has a collection of interesting Armenian monasteries, mostly remote and difficult to access. Populated settlements include Berd, the regional capital, and 16 rural communities. To reach the province, use the road from Chambarak (Gegharkunik province) to Berd, or the old road from Ijevan.

Berd is located on the left bank of the Tavush River at 800m above sea level, and is surrounded by low mountains. The name "Berd", meaning "fort", originates from a medieval fortress which still stands on the outskirts of the town. Tslik Amram (9th-13th cc.), known also as Tavush Fort, was strategically located on a key route from the Caspian region and, in its time, was impregnable. In written sources, the fortress was first mentioned in the 10th century as the residence of the governors of the Armenian king Ashot Erkat (Iron Ashot). To reach the rough but picturesque walls of the fort, take the right fork at the entrance to town, cross the river and head up and left. There is no path that goes to the top, however. On the territory of the fortress, shards of ancient pottery and other small items can be still found.

Legend of the Tavush Fort

Tslik Amram, after which the Berd fort is named, was a powerful lord in the 8th-9th cc. According to one legend, his wife, Aspram, was secretly in love with the great Armenian king Ashot II, the Iron (ruled 914-928). Ashot Yerkat, suffering through an arranged marriage, reciprocated her love. When Tslik discovered this forbidden love, he imprisoned his wife in the castle where she committed suicide. In revenge, he had Ashot's wife's brother and cousin blinded, their eyes gouged out with burning iron. During recent excavations of the forth, a woman's skeleton was discovered and believed to be Aspram's.

Another interesting place is a 60 ha large park at the top of the town, which has traces of cyclopean walls from the 2nd-1st millennium BCE, a small museum, and several Soviet era sculptures. There is rotunda with café which offers splendid views of the town.

The vicinity of the border, as well as bad road connections, made Berd one of the most isolated and impoverished towns in the country. Once important agriculture center with well-developed industries of winemaking, beekeeping, a granary, tobacco and fruit production is now struggling to survive. Actually, the Tavush River valley, where Berd is located, is one of the oldest agricultural centers on earth. The precursor to domesticated grain was found here, as are wild variants of domesticated fruits and cereals. Settlements have been traced to the Paleolithic era (15,000-12,000 BCE), with the greatest concentration in and around Berd in the Copper, Bronze and Iron Ages.

To get to Shamshadin's monasteries and forts, which are scattered on the forested mountain slopes and river gorges, requires some serious offroading and lots of effort.

Nine kilometers to the west of Berd is the village of **Navur**, with a series of ruined 3rd-1st millennium BC forts: Tandzut fort, 1st millennium BC (5 km S); Berdi Glukh fort, early 1st millennium BC (S edge of town); Kari Glukh cyclopean fort; Srtner fort, 6th-4th cc. BC (small hill 6 km W); Dashti Berd cyclopean fort (3km SW) has substantial wall remains.

Shkhmuradi Monastery (12th -13th cc.), 6km southwest of Verin Tsaghkavan village, is one of the lost monasteries of Tavush. Located in a picturesque valley of Hakhum River and overgrown with lush vegetation, it may be a bit hard to spot in the shadow of an enormous rock. It's an incredible area to hike in, and the small monastery is interesting to explore as well. The complex consists of the church of St. Astvatsatsin, two vestibules, and an erection called «Khoranik». According to the inscription of the western wall, Khoranik was built in 1149 - in fact it's the most ancient erection of the ensemble. The construction got its name from the word «zkhoraniks» that was in the inscription, as well. The ruins and the signs of chapels and auxiliary constructions are preserved in the environs. The Shkhmuradi complex was partly restored to life in the 17th century, evidenced by the signs of restoration on the monuments and the dated khachkars of the complex. The khachkar with images of human figures placed by the southern entry is especially notable.

Nor Varagavank Monastery is located 4 km to the west from the village of Varagavn, on a forested hillside which opens to views of Azerbaijan. The monastery preserves one of the most intricate and beautifully carved portals in Armenia. The purple and green stone tiles are each carved differently, and set into a cream colored church. Nor Varagavank, meaning, "New Varagavank" got its name after famous Varagavank Monastery in Vaspurakan (Western Armenia) which was ruined by Mongols. The brotherhood moved here and established a new monastery. They saved the relics kept in the monastery, including the pieces of St. Khachapayt that were brought by the virgin of St. Hripsime. The monastery is a popular pilgrimage site, especially on the day of St. Varaga Khach (29th of September).

The complex of the **Srvegh Monastery** (13th c.) is located 3km to the southwest of the Aygehovit village, in a place called Khachi Tak (Beneath the Cross). Each monastery in Armenia truly has its own charm, and this one has no shortage of it. Emphasized symmetries, unusual brick dome, and, like all the monasteries of Shamshadin, a very beautiful setting. The main church complex's vaulted hall has a peaked hood, according to which the church got its name - Srvegh (with the pointed hood). The Srvegh monastery was reconstructed numerous times. In most of the lower parts of the walls pieces of cross-stones are inserted. Around the monastery there is a medieval cemetery.

St. Khoranashat Monastery, 2 kilometers east of Berd, near Chinari village, is one of the gems of Shamshadin. Monk Vardapet, a well-known literary critic and religious icon, established the monastery in the 13th century. The monastery was destroyed several times, but Monk Vardapet reestablished it and continued educational endeavors with his students. The school of Khoranashat taught lessons in theology, geography, astronomy, grammar, and historiography.

NOYEMBERYAN REGION

Noyemberyan region occupies the north corner of Tavush and is endowed with a mild subtropical climate, which is conducive to the cultivation of a great variety of fruits. The terrain slowly descends toward the Georgian border, to reach the lowest point in the whole country near Debedavan village (389m above sea level). In the far north, the gentle rolling hills covered with vineyards, orchards and even olive groves can be seen.

The administrative center of the region is the small industrial town of **Noyemberyan**, with a population of 5500 inhabitants. Located in the Koghb riverbed, 30km south of the Georgian border, Noyemberyan is the northernmost town in Armenia. Until 1937, the town was known as Barana, but, like many other cities in the Soviet Union, was renamed to commemorate the October Revolution, also known as the November Revolution. Noyemberyan has been inhabited since the Stone Age. Near the town are three Iron Age cy-



clopean forts, with traces of early metalworking: Berdagh, 2km NE; Mraghants Areguni; and Tpi-Gash, going N from town. The town is set in one of the prettiest landscapes in the country, at the foot of the rolling mountains of Batsrel and Bertagh, alongside the Gogveli orchards, the produce from which is legendary in Armenia. Noyemberyan is a community with a unique combination of rural and urban life. Traditionally, the people of Noyemberyan grow and process peaches and grapes, while only recently, the growing of apples, pineapples, plums and figs became common.

Some 4km north of Noyemberyan is **Koghb**, the oldest and biggest community of the Tavush province, with a history of over 1600 years. Archeological excavations have shown that the village has been occupied since prehistoric times. During the Gugarak Kingdom (2nd-1st c. BC), Koghb was the centre of Koghbapor province and can be found in historical notes. There are still traces of pagan structures, monasteries, sanctuaries, and churches scattered around the village. At the north end of the village is the Koghb Culture Center, which houses the Historical Museum of Koghb. The museum presents the history from the late Bronze Age up until the last decade of the 20th century and has several unique treasures. The village also has an art school which teaches children painting and different applied arts.

Mshkavank Monastery Complex (10th -13th cc.) lies approx. 5.5km southwest of Koghb. The 12th century gavit almost overwhelms the smaller 5th -6th century St. Astvatsatsin basilica, which was recently restored. The gavit is on a stepped base and has remnants of decoration around the entrance. On the east facade of the church, there is an unusual cross. A 5th-7th century Ageghtsi church, 6th century Tvarageghtsi church with a cemetery from the 12th-13th centuries, and Vardi Gyugh hill with the ruins of the St. Astvatsatsin chapel and graveyard are somewhere on the mountain 3-4km southwest of the town.

From Koghb, a road leads NE to **Berdavan** village, with a picturesque triangular 10th -11th century Ghalinjakar castle (Berdavan castle) on a hill near the border. There used to be shelters, stores and other premises in the castle courtyard, as well as 11 towers on the outsides of the walls. The fortress used to have a secret passage taking one to the canyon. A nearby medieval cemetery has an especially noteworthy rather large khachkar leaning on a cube-shaped pedestal, with cross images and pictures of standing figures depicting people on its eastern side.

The village of **Bagratashen** is located on the Armenian-Georgian border. The Dbet River separates the two countries, with the border crossing just outside the village. At one of the lowest altitudes in Armenia, Bagratashen is usually remarkably warmer than its surrounding towns and villages. Bagratashen was well-known by locals for the bustling foreign market which shut down several years ago, and its sunflower industry which still thrives. In summer months, fields of sunflowers decorate roads and pathways which provide for scenic flat-land hiking. During certain times of the year, you can buy an entire roasted sunflower head to eat. Located 3km from the village is the only olive grove in Armenia, stretching over 50 ha of land.





AGRITOURISM

Prior to 1990, Tavush had developed its agriculture and provided for 9% of the gross agricultural output of Armenia. The most developed horticulture sectors were tobacco and fruit growing, as well as pig breeding. Agriculture in the province was severely affected by the land reform, which caused the abandonment of over 9,000 ha of irrigated orchards and fields. Tobacco and fruit growing have seen some revival in the last few years, however, and the region has begun to regain some of its former glory.

With such a rich agriculture heritage, many villages in the Tavush province have potential for agritourist development. The opportunity to be close to authentic Armenian villagers, taste their food, see the production process and experience all the peculiarities of village life is something that should be explored and developed. At the moment, agritourist is still in its beginning phase, and there are few farmers and rural households that offer such services.

“Berq” Greenhouse / Ijevan / Phone: (+374) 98 20 92 00 / Contact: Arusyak Ota-ryan, manager

A greenhouse with 5-6 types of strawberries. Activities: visit to greenhouse, strawberry tasting, and sale.

“Lorik” B&B / Aknaghbyur village, Ijevan region / Phone: (+374) 77 11 20 99 / Contact: Lorik Harutyunyan, manager. Lodging: 2 bedrooms. Visits: greenhouse, cattle farm, orchards.

Pavel B&B / Gandzakar village, Ijevan region / Phone: (+374) 94 57 51 23 / Contact: Pavel Dovlatbekyan, manager. Lodging: 3 bedrooms. Visits: orchards, gardening, dried fruit production.

Dried Fruits Production / Lusadzor village, Ijevan region / Phone: (+374) 93 75 67 85 / Contact: Suren Kocharyan, manager. Dried fruit making: prune and blood orange. Activities: Dried fruit tasting and sale.

Cattle Farm / Lusadzor village, Ijevan region / Phone: (+374) 93 75 67 85 / Contact: Suren Kocharyan, manager. Activities: Cattle farm tour and visit to dairy farm to take part in activities.

Greenhouse / Lusadzor village, Ijevan region / Phone: (+374) 93 75 67 85 / Contact: Suren Kocharyan, manager. Activities: Visit to greenhouse. Seasonal sale of fruits and vegetables.

More information can be found on the following web page: www.agrotourism.am.

ITINERARIES AND TRAILS

Hiking

Tavush is an ideal place for hikers and adventure lovers. Hiking is most developed in the Dilijan region (Dilijan National Park and Ijevan region (Yenokavan, Lastiver), but Shamshadin and Noyemberyan also offer some interesting opportunities.

Dilijan Region

Dilijan National Park is the best known hiking destination in the country. Eleven marked hiking trails reveal an attractive landscape of great diversity with evergreen forests, lush grazing fields, and deciduous woodlands. All 11 hiking trails vary in their level of difficulty. Some take in picnic spots, some lead to farming settlements. Some trails pass through deep forests to mountain lakes and waterfalls, unique red wood groves and monasteries almost completely overtaken by nature. Some pass through fields and pastures, taking hikers to mountain peaks from where they can see the amazing scenery of the National Park and Sevan Lake. This guidebook lists the trails without giving detailed descriptions. For more information on the trails, refer to “Hiking Trails’ Guidebook” which can be obtained in the Dilijan National Park Visitor Information Center.

Dilijan – Matosavank (E1)

Overview: The short hike to Matosavank Monastery (13th c.) will get your blood pumping and is excellent for warming up. The trail begins at the nature reserve sign, on the road to the “Dilijan” mineral water factory, approx. 3km from the Dilijan-Vanadzor highway. From there, take the left steep fork down and across the river towards the monastery, which is up above in the woods. The trail is marked, with red arrows and markings at 25 to 50m intervals.

Hike duration: 30 min one way / 2km

Dilijan – Jukhtak Monastery – 11th c. Chapel (E2)

Overview: The trail begins at the same point as trail E1, just this time take the right fork which will get you to the 12th century Jukhtak monastic complex. Continue through a picnic area and then uphill until you reach an ancient burial ground located on the top of the hill. From there, you will descend towards a farming settlement and end up at the small 11th century chapel.

Hike duration: 1.5h / 3km

Haghartsin Monastery – Shamakhyan Village (E3)

Overview: Beginning at a small chapel with khatchkars which belongs to the complex of Haghartsin Monastery, this hike takes you along footpaths used for centuries by shepherds and woodsmen. You’ll follow a stream and crisscrossing trails uphill through the forest, eventually ending up at a clearing with a magnificent view of Shamakhyan village (northwestern suburb of Dilijan) and the surrounding region. From here, you will wind

your way down to the village. This is a partially-marked road with some overgrown parts near the mountain pass.

Hike duration: 3.5h / 10km

Parz Lich – Goshavank (E-4)

Overview: From Parz Lake you will trek through lush, dense woodlands, suddenly emerging in a vast grassy meadow from which you will descend to Gosh village, concluding your hike at the breathtaking medieval monastery of Goshavank. The trail starts some 15-20 m after “Parz Lich” Restaurant and has red markings that will guide you to the monastery.

Hike duration: 4 h / 8 km

Dilijan – Ttu Jur to Parz Lake (E-5)

Overview: This is a beautiful and varied hike. You will begin in Upper Dilijan, walk through rolling hills of grazing fields, meadows of endless wildflowers, and the lush, deep forests of the Dilijan Highlands to end up at Parz Lake. Along the way, you will pass by Ttu Jur, a natural mineral spring.

Hike duration: 3.5h / 10km

Starting point: From the Dilijan roundabout, take the road up towards the Dilijan town center. A couple hundred meters after you pass the town square, take the right fork. Continue until it turns into a dirt road. This is the highest point in the town. You have arrived at the starting point.

Aghavnavank Village - Redwood Grove (E-6)

Overview: This is a short, easy and pleasant hike, ideal for a picnic with the family. It is a partially-marked trail that takes you along a creek in a fenced area of Dilijan National Park. You will end up at Aghavnavank (Monastery of the Dove), a small medieval monastery that has been almost completely overtaken by nature.

Hike duration: 45 min one way (in total 1.5h) / 2.3km one way

Starting point: From the Dilijan roundabout, take the road north to Ijevan. Drive approximately 16km. On the right, you will see a sign for Gosh & Chambarak. Take a right and drive 11km along the road to Chambarak. Immediately after crossing a bridge, you will find a green sign on the left marking the trail's beginning.

Haghartsin Village - Abeghakar Peak (E-7)

Overview: This trail begins in the quaint village of Haghartsin. You will pass a cemetery, some khatchkars (cross-stones), and lush grazing fields, to eventually climb the Abeghakar Peak. From here, you will have a stunning view of the region. You are sure to meet some friendly locals along the way.

Hike duration: 2.5h one way (in total 5h) / 5.5km one way

Starting point: From the Dilijan roundabout, take the road north to Ijevan. Drive approximately 10km. Once you have passed Haghartsin village, on your left you will see a small picnic area, an ascending dirt road, and a green sign marking the beginning of the trail.

Dilijan- Ayridash (E-8)

Overview: This trail takes you through fields and pastures, unlike other hikes in the Dilijan area, which mostly cover dense forests. You will climb Astkhakar peak located in Ayridash area, from where, on a clear day, you can see as far as Lake Sevan.

Hike duration: 3.5h one way (in total 7h) / 8km one way

Starting point: From the Dilijan roundabout take the road towards Vanadzor. Drive 2.5km. On your right, there will be a road that bends back and ascends to Shamakhyan village. Take the road to Shamakhyan village and drive for 3km. Keep right at the fork and continue to ascend to the highest point in the village. Once you've passed the last farm, you will see a green sign indicating the beginning of the trail.

Goshavank - Gosh Lich (E-9)

Overview: After a short walk down from Goshavank Monastery, this hike takes you up a winding dirt road towards Gosh Lake. You'll hear the waters before you see it. This small lake (more of a large pond really) is brimming with life - a frog sanctuary of sorts. There is a nice picnic area here, ideal for a lunch break. Gosh Lich is a popular fishing spot, so you're sure to bump into some friendly locals if you lose your way.

Hike duration: 45 min one way (in total 1.5 h) / 2.5 km one way

Starting point: From the Dilijan roundabout take the road north to Ijevan. Drive approximately 16 km. On your right, you will see a sign for Gosh & Chambarak. Follow the arrow towards Gosh (take a right). Keep following the signs for Gosh. At the end of the road, you should see the large Goshavank monastic complex on your right. You have arrived.

Dilijan National Park Office - Waterfall (E-10)

Overview: This trail takes you to a recently discovered small and beautiful waterfall, located not so far away from Dilijan town. It is surrounded by beautiful forests and a rocky landscape.

Hike duration: 2h / 3.3km

Starting point: From the Dilijan roundabout, take the road north to Ijevan and drive approximately 500m. On your left, you will see a turn to the Dilijan National Park administrative building. This is the beginning of the trail.

Dilijan - Dilijan Mountains - Dilijan (E-11)

Overview: This circuitous trail begins in Upper Dilijan. You will hike past Ttu Jur (a natural mineral spring) and up into the Dilijan Mountains. From the peak (one of the highest points in the area) you will have a breathtaking view of the region. The trail takes you down the mountain by a different route, and you will end up back at your starting point in Upper Dilijan.

Hike duration: 5h / 15km

How to get there: From the Dilijan roundabout, take the road up towards Dilijan town center. A couple hundred meters after you pass the town square, take the right fork. Continue along until it turns into a dirt road. This is the highest point in the town. You have arrived.



Ijevan Region

Opening to the “Apaga” Active Rest Club and the “Anapat” Eco Camp, Yenokavan village became a center for active tourism in the region. A large number of different hiking and horseback riding trails were developed, attracting lovers of nature from all over Armenia and abroad. The most spectacular is the Lastiver/Anapat trail, but also the other trails will make you feel replenished with excitement of direct contact with wild nature. For more information about the trails to Makaravank, Lusadzor, Servansikhach, Berdat-eg, Okon, Ahnidzor, Getahovit, etc. refer to Apaga Tour web site.

Lastiver/Anapat - Hermit's Path Hiking Trail

Overview: The Hermit's Path is considered to be one of the most exciting hiking trails in the country. The path takes you through the steep and breathtaking canyons of the Sarnajur and Khachaghbiur Rivers to the plethora of carved caves, which served as the hermits' cells for centuries.

Hike duration: 2h / 5km

Altitude: 1300m – 1133m

Starting point: “Apaga” Active Rest Club complex, approx. 4km to the west of the village of Yenokavan

Trail condition: The path is pretty good apart from one bit where the path is narrow, with a sheer cliff on one side and a sheer drop on the other. The last bit to the camp is quite a steep climb down.

Description: To reach Lastiver caves requires a minimum of a two hour walk from Yenokavan. The Lastiver/Anapat trail, also known as “Hermit's Path”, begins from a plateau next to a large landfall called pulek. This gigantic landslide was formed at the beginning of the 20th century when massive stones separated from their “mother rock,” and can be easily spotted on the way from the village. Further on the route goes through dense forest where one can easily meet some of their inhabitants such as a raccoon, badger and a fox. Sometimes forest cats, lynxes, weasels and stone martens can be also spotted, although this occurs very rarely. Crossing into the Sarnajur canyon, the path is hemmed in on one side by sheer cliffs of rock projections and the deep forest on the other side. This narrow and steep path was used by hermits for centuries that came to this isolated spot to devote themselves to solitude and prayer. The path has several forks which take to solitary niches, but the main road takes down. Crossing from forest to a stone plateau (“Karahet”), the trail soon enters the forest again and a high point overlooking rocky grottoes and a steep canyon called the Eshi Dzor (“Donkey Gorge”). Here the path becomes steeper. About 1km into the gorge is the 13th century Astvatsatsin church. Continuing on and past the “Diablo Bridge” natural rock formation, there is a set of caves, called the Anapat or Lastiver Caves, ranging from 10 to 30 meters deep to about 15 meters wide, overlooking the waterfalls. There are about 21 caves up here, only half explored. The main attractions are the Big and Small Anapat caves. To get to the upper cave you have to climb a ladder and haul yourself through a tunnel. A second cave, up some steps carved in the rock, used to be a pagan shrine but latterly it is used by Christians as there are crosses carved into the rock. At the widest point of the canyon is the “Anapat” Eco Camp. Once you have arrived, retrace your steps back to the starting point. Alternatively, you can continue the tour. The right canyon of the Aghbugha River will take you to Ahnidzor village (Lori). This is a two day hike. Left fork, the Khachaghbyur River canyon will take you to the shepherd summer settlement of Okon from where you can take a dirt road to south, and then east to end in Getahovit village above Ijevan. This is, again, a two day hike.

Hovk-“Back to the Stone Age” Hiking Trail

Overview: This trail will take you to the set of open Stone Age sites and caves above the village of Hovk.

Hike duration: 4h on the way up and 2h on the way down / 11km (in total 22)

Starting point: “Arpi” Restaurant/Motel, Dilijan-Ijevan highway, Hovk village

Description: The trail begins across the “Arpi” Restaurant and starts to ascend toward Hovk village. On the first curve there is a right fork which leads to a small, but picturesque Kari Lake. The road continues to zigzag up the slope until it reaches the Hovk village, which is located on an elevated plateau above the Aghstev River gorge, 3.5km from the highway. Passing the village, the road continues to climb using the tracks rooted by shepherds until it reaches shepherd's summer settlements right below the ridge of the Ijevan Mountain. Here in the vertical cliffs of the mountain look for the Hovk cave, with a Paleolithic archaeological site.



Tavush Region

Shkhmuradi Monastery Hiking Trail

Overview: This trail takes you through the dense forests of Hakhum River gorge till Shkhmuradi Monastery (40°54'50.16"N; 45°18'2.82"E; elevation 961m) and then continues through the gorge till the intersection with the old Ijevan-Berd road.

Hike duration: 2.5 to 3h / 9km

Starting point: Verin Tsaghkavan village

Description: Shkhmuradi Monastery is approx. 4.5-5km SW of the Verin Tsaghkavan village, depending on which road you take. Just before you enter the village on its south side, there is a dirt track that turns left (SW) and runs parallel to the river. The road skirts the south end of the village and continues till the last house. There you will have to choose between two roads (upper and lower), which run along the northern bank of the Hakhum River and join after few kilometers. Each road you pick, just keep left and parallel to the river. The lower road (from the house turn left and across the river), although recently fixed, is still very rough and can get muddy after the rain. After about 3.4km from that point, you will approach a monastery which is overtaken by nature and can be hard to spot. As you get closer you will see two huge rock promontories with trees clinging to them: use these as a marker; the monastery is directly below them, in a natural crevice next to the road. Continue to follow the road through the gorge and after approx. 4km you will reach the old Ijevan-Berd road. From here you can arrange for taxi to pick you up.

Nor Varagavank – Srvegh Monastery Hiking Trail

Overview: This trail traverses the northern side of Hakhum Mountain range and connects two beautiful gems of the Shamshadin region, the monasteries of Nor Varagavank and Srvegh.

Hike duration: 5h / 16.5km

Starting point: Nor Varagavank Monastery, 4km west of Varagavan village

Description: You will begin this hike from Nor Varagavank Monastery (40°57'39.41"N; 45°19'41.20"E). Walk back the road that brought you from Varagavan village to the monastery for 450m until you reach a picnic area. Turn left (W) taking a dirt road which runs uphill. After approx. 2km you will reach the top of the ridge. The road follows the ridge going from NE to SW. After 7km (9.3km from the beginning of the trail) you will reach the crossroad with several roads going in different directions (W1 40°55'56.26"N; 45°14'41.72"E). Take right road which leads north. After 4.5km, pay attention to a small wooden gate on your right, that will take you to the Srvegh Monastery (40°57'55.14"N; 45°14'38.52"E), which stands on a meadow surrounded by woods. The road ends in Aygehovit village from where you should arrange transport.

Noyemberyan Region

Koghb Village - Mshkavank Monastery Trail

Overview: A short and easy hike which will take you to the Mshkavank Monastery (41°9'51.06"N; 44°58'16.46"E)

Hike duration: 1.5h / 5.5km

Altitude: Koghb 739m - Mshkavank Monastery 1128m

Starting point: Cultural Center of Koghb village

Trail condition: Good and easy to follow dirt road

Description: The trail starts at the Cultural Center of Koghb village, where the history museum of the community is located, and continues towards Noyemberyan Forest Enterprise (SW). Upon reaching the edge of the village, the road turns to left (SE) and continues upwards the top of forest covered mountain. In a large glade, you can see Mshkavank Monastery (9th – 12th cc.) with its unique architectural solutions. There are freshwater springs and shelters around the monastery. The area is rich in wild berries (wild pear, wild apple, blackberry, cornelian cherry, dog-rose, medlar, walnut, etc.). The ancient cemetery with numerous cross stones is located 300m from the monastery. The trail is favorable for admirers of both historical-cultural and ecotourism. It can be passed on foot, with horse and all-terrain vehicles.

Biking

Kirants - Acharkut-Yenokavan Biking Trail

Overview: Beginning at Kirants village, this trail takes you through Kirants and Samson River gorges. On the way you will see two magic monasteries- Arakelots and Deghdznut both built in 12th - 13th cc. and largely overtaken by nature.

Distance: 5-6h / 30km

Description: Just before Kirants village, take the left fork which runs to Acharkut village and then further through Kirants gorge (SW). After 3.8km, turn right and follow the signs and road for about 500m, to the substantial remains of the 13th century Arekelots Monastery which lies on top of a thickly wooded eminence. The complex is surrounded with 10th-13th century fortress walls and includes a refectory and a pilgrim ijevan (inn). Descend back to the main road and continue upstream, following the river for about 3.5km. On your way, you will pass a monument on the right, in front of a picnic spot with a cave museum in the cliff side. Continue until you come to a left (S) road which leads to the spectacular Samson Gorge. The road ascends toward 13th century Deghdznuti Vank. As you continue south, above you on the right (W) bank of the river, on top of a mountain, are the reputed ruins of the Berdakar medieval fort with cisterns. This would have been Makanaberd, the fortress-capital of the Artsruni family, who ruled the area during the 11th -13th centuries. On a slope opposite to Deghdznuti Vank are the remains of another fort, the Melik-Abovi Berd. Follow the ridge to the south until you reach the crossroad (40°56'28.54"N; 45° 1'37.76"E). Take the right fork which will take you to Yenokavan village.

The trail ends at the "Apaga" Active Rest Club at Gomer hill.

Koghb village - Zikatar Sanctuary Biking Tour

Overview: Short and pleasant biking tour which will take you to the "Zikatar" Forest Training Regional Center (41° 7'34.41"N; 44°55'11.38"E)

Distance: 10km

Altitude: Koghb 739m - "Zikatar" Forest Training Regional Center 1263m

Starting point: Cultural Center of Koghb village

Description: The trail starts at the Cultural Center of Koghb village and continues towards Noyemberyan Forest Enterprise, until the edge of the village. Here you can see the old village with ruins of the church and medieval cemetery. Towards the left riverside of Koghb, the crushed stone road continues to the west. Tvaraeghtsi dilapidated church constructed in the 7th century is located on the 5th km of the road. From the 7th km, the road turns left, passes Koghb River, and continues towards top of Zikatar Mountain (1665m). On the northern slope of Zikatar Mountain, the Zikatar Sanctuary with the area of 150 ha and "Zikatar" Forest Training Regional Center are located. The center is equipped with computers and telephones; available are also a canteen, accommodation facilities, a library, and visitor center, providing good conditions for visitors. The area is strikingly beautiful. Almost all tree and bush species typical for north-eastern Armenia grow in this area. The old mausoleum of Zikatar is also located in this area.



Horseback Riding

Gomer – Kanacher Horseback Riding Trail

Overview: A short ride to Kanacher cave with spring

Hike duration: 45 min / 3.6km

Altitude: Gomer/"Apaga" Active Rest Club (Yenokavan village) 1380m – Kanacher 1146m

Starting point: "Apaga" Active Rest Club complex in Yenokavan village

Description: The trail starts at the base of "Apaga" Active Rest Club complex in Yenokavan village. At the beginning the trail descends leading through forests and meadows, until the Kanacher cave (1146m) with crystal water spring. After the cave the path climbs to 1260m, and then shortly descends to 1234m until it reaches the nut grove. During the route, a small stream is crossed. If you are looking for refreshment, there is a water pond called Garsevani Gel, where you can plunge yourself. Once you have arrived, retrace your steps back to your starting point. The trail can be also done on foot, or by bike.



Flora

The diversity of flora throughout the province is astounding. Every type of vegetation in found Armenia inhabits this particular region. With several protected areas on its territory, Tavush has great opportunities for the development of various botanical tours.

Dilijan National Park has almost 1000 species of plants with about 40 rare species of plants. About 29 species of the flora are registered in the Red Book of Endangered Species of Armenia and 4 in the Red Data Book of the USSR. The main subjects of protection in the Dilijan National Park are beech (*Fagus orientalis*) and oak (*Quercus iberica*) forests that also include some pines (*Pinus kochianus*), as well as the shady yew grove of Hakhnabad with impressive *Taxus baccata* trees. There are also different types of hornbeam (*Carpinus caucasicus*, *C.orientalis*), ash-tree, lime tree, maple, caprifol, spindle trees, and others (*Fraxinus*, *Tilia*, *Acer*, *Lonicera*, *Euonymus*). Numerous plants like rare Job's-tears (*Lycnnis flos-cuculi*), different orchids, and fritillaria (*Orchidaceae*, *Fritillaria*) are included in the Red Book.

Dilijan National Park is a haven for flower lovers, who can discover stunning wild-flowers with colorful highlights in different seasons. Hikers will be fascinated by the rapid change in flora depending on the altitude, which can sometimes be experienced within a

few minutes' walk.

The western rocky slopes of the Ijevan mountain range and Mount Abeghasar are rich in petrophytes and rare plants. Rocks and cliffs serve as a favorable habitat for numerous rare species such as Armenian Saint John's wort (*Hypericum armenum*), saxifrage (*Saxifraga juniperifolia*, *S. tridactylites*), scorzonera (*Scorzonera rigida*), cephalaria (*Cephalaria media*), small scabious (*Scabiosa columbaria*), jasmine (*Jasminum fruticans*), and others. Mount Abeghasar is especially rich in rare species.

The main forest species on the territory of Zikatar Sanctuary are Oriental Beech, Mountain Oak, Georgian Oak, Hornbeam, and the accompanying species are Oriental Hornbeam, Lime, Ash, Fields Maple, Norway maple, and others.

Koghb Village - Yew Groove Botanical Tour

Distance: 50km

Starting point: Cultural Center of Koghb village

Description: The trail starts at the Cultural Center of Koghb, continues through the main road to Yerevan until the crossroads of Voskevan village, then it turns to left, passes through Voskevan and Koti villages and reaches Barekamavan village. There one can find a unique natural population of Bladder nut (*Staphylea pinnata* L.) growing 800m towards the southwest from Voskevan village (1 ha area). Near this area, the famous St. Bardzryal Khach chapel is located. Coming back by the same road until the Voskevan crossroads, the trail continues through Yerevan's main road to Voskepar village. On the right riverside of Voskepar, 3km west from Voskepar village, the Yew Grove is located. The surroundings are rich with forests of high density. The famous St. Astvatsatsin church (6th-7th cc.) is situated in the territory of Voskepar village, where you can also see ruins of a fortress from middle ages (9th – 12th cc.).

Koghb Village- Sosiner (Plane Tree)

Overview: This 4WD tour will take you to the 800 year old plane tree and St. Gevorg chapel

Distance: 22km

Starting point: Cultural Center of Koghb village

Description: The trail starts at the Cultural Center of Koghb and continues 6km through the main highway to Ayrum and from "Hayots Ojakh" restaurant turns left to south-west (500m). A plane tree of almost 800 years is growing here, registered in the list of nature monuments of the Republic of Armenia. There are many spring-monuments in this area, comfortable for leisure. The surrounding areas are rich in cornelian cherry. The trail then turns southeast, and climbs the ridge. Reaching the top of the ridge, it turns south and continues through the forest until the Vardi Gyugh plot where a ruined St. Gevorg chapel, an old settlement where several khachkars are located. Following the forest road, the trail turns east to Koghb village, connecting the road to Zikatar on the intersection with the road to Mshkavank.

Bird watching

The deciduous mountain forests of Tavush are home of a variety of birds with an excellent selection of diurnal and nocturnal creatures of prey. The avifauna of Dilijan National Park is abundant and represented by 150 species, including Caucasian Black Grouse (*Tetrao mlokosiewiczii*), Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Bearded Eagle (*Gypaetus barbatus aureus*), Caspian Snowcock (*Tetraogallus caspius*), Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Eurasian sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*), Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Clanga pomarina*), European Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*), Eurasian Eagle-Owl (*Bubo bubo*), Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*), Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*), Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*), Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*), Twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*), Red-fronted Serin (*Serinus pusillus*), Rock Sparrow (*Petronia petronia*), Rock Bunting (*Emberiza cia*), Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*), Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), Alpine Chough (*Pyrrhocorax graculus*), Common Raven (*Corvus corax*), Western Rock Nuthatch (*Sitta neumayer*), Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*), different sub-species of Kingfisher, White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*), Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*), White-throated Dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*), Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*), Great White Egret (*Ardea alba*), and others.

Haghartsin is a globally important habitat for the conservation of bird population spreads to the east of the Haghartsin Monastery, and covers the territory of 6137 ha with altitudes ranging from 1199 to 2472 meters. It greatly overlaps with the territory of Dilijan National Park. At Haghartsin, a special protection and public awareness about Caucasian Grouse decline was recently raised through a number of meetings involving local authorities and communities.

Ijevan State Sanctuary is represented by Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*), Twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*), and Caspian Snowcock (*Tetraogallus caspius*). The territory of the forest is one of the main eagle habitats in Armenia. There are many other birds of prey - an eagle, hawk, owl and black kite.

May and June are the best months to visit in spring and summer, while it's also lovely during the whole of September and October in autumn. The richness in birds and other wildlife, in conjunction with the famous hospitality of the local people, delicious cuisine, as well as numerous ancient historical and cultural monuments, alongside some of the most impressive scenery in Armenia, makes Tavush a worthwhile and rewarding destination for every keen birder. And there are always chances for new discoveries here, as many parts of the province still remain under-watched.



Arts and Crafts

Itinerary

- Day one – Dilijan:
 - “Old Dilijan” Complex with craftsmen workshops and the “Yesayan” Museum;
 - Geological Museum and Art Gallery of Dilijan;
 - Painting master classes in Ghazar Ghazaryan’s Art Studio.
- Day two – Dilijan:
 - Ashot Babayan’s Art Studio;
 - Dilijan Folk Art Museum;
 - Painting master classes in Ghazar Ghazaryan’s Art Studio.
- Day three – Ijevan and Berd:
 - Ijevan Historical and Geographical Museum;
 - Several artists in the Aygehovit village;
 - Berd Women Resource Center Foundation (Berd Bears).
- Day four – Berd and Koghb:
 - Berd Museum of Local History and Life;
 - “Wilhelm Matevosyan” Art Studio-master class of embroidery or painting;
 - Koghb Charity Art School.
- Day five –Koghb:
 - “Historical museum of Koghb;
 - Koghb Charity Art School – painting / woodcarving / ceramics /handcrafts master classes;
 - “Yereknuk” Handcrafts.

The tour can be prolonged, depending on the interest of the participants for different master classes.



FESTIVALS

Dilijan Carpet Weaving Festival / Dilijan / Date: August 16th / Organizer: Media Onix LLC. The annual “Carpet Weaving and Decorative Artwork Festival in Dilijan” presents artisans from around the country who have mastered the art of carpet weaving, as well as handicrafts from Gyumri with pottery, knit products, metalwork, woodwork, and ceramic products present. A rich cultural program includes local artists performing traditional music and dance, using traditional instruments and presenting the Armenian culture.

Shamshadin Honey and Berry Festival / Berd / Date: August 17th / Phone: (+374) 77 47 33 35 / E-mail: info@hdif.org / Web: www.hdif.org / Facebook: Shamshadin Honey and Berry Festival / Organizers: Homeland Development Initiative Foundation, Berd Municipality, Tavoush Spiritual Revival Foundation, Berd Women’s Resource Center Foundation and Green Lane NGO. The “Shamshadin Honey and Berry Festival” includes exhibitions of the honey and berries grown in the Shamshadin region, as well as having platforms for tasting delicious traditional Armenian dishes made with these ingredients. Exhibitions of carpets and tapestries produced by the craftsmen of the Tavush region, as well as a number of events with national songs and dances, complement the program of the festival.

TOURIST INFO CENTERS

“Dilnet” Tourism & Business Center / 66/5, Miasnikyan Str., Dilijan / Phone: (+374) 268 27 280, (+374) 77 01 72 50, (+374) 77 03 72 50 / E-mail: dilnetservice@mail.ru, dilnetservice@rambler.ru / Web: www.online-dilijan.am / Contact: Ashot Hovhannisyan, director. “Dilnet” produces and publishes maps, guide books and other promotional material. Also, the company can organize hiking in the Dilijan National Park and tours in Tavush and Lori.

Dilijan Info Center and Souvenir Shop (Dilijan Tourism Association) / 7/8, Maksim Gorki Str., Dilijan / Phone: (+374) 268 25 080, (+374) 77 44 48 58, (+374) 91 34 72 30 / Contact: Arthur Soghomonyan / Working hours: Mon.-Sun. (9:00 am – 9:00 pm) / Languages: Russian, English. Dilijan Information Center is located in the central square of the town, near the bus station. It provides information on accommodation, attractions, and other tourist information. There is a well-equipped gift shop displaying the works of local artisans.

Ijevan Tourist Information Center / 5a, Melikbekyan Str., Ijevan / Phone: (+374) 263 33 258 / Working hours: Mon. – Sat. (10:00 am – 7:00 pm). The tourist information center is located in the cultural center and provides details on accommodation and may offer some travel suggestions. Language: Russian.

MUSEUMS / ART STUDIOS / SOUVENIR SHOPS / ARTISTS & CRAFTSMEN

Ijevan

Ijevan Historical and Geographical Museum / 5, Yerevanyan Str., Ijevan / Phone: (+374) 263 34 259, (+374) 77 09 11 86, (+374) 77 32 08 49 / Contacts: Petros Afyan, director; Nariman Tananyan, guide / Working hours: Mon. – Fri. (10:00 am – 5:00 pm). Entrance fee: Free of charge. Language: Russian. The museum is situated in an old building next to the Ijevan-Sevan highway. It was established in 1955 and covers an area of 75 m². The museum features a small exhibition of historical, natural and ethnographical displays and has more than 1500 artifacts, out of which only 400 are permanently exhibited. The most valuable artifacts are findings from the Stone and Bronze Ages.

Sergey Dalakyan, artists / Aygehovit village / Phone: (+374) 93 41 45 46

Nairi Jamvelyan, sculptor / Aygehovit village / Phone: (+374) 93 16 75 05

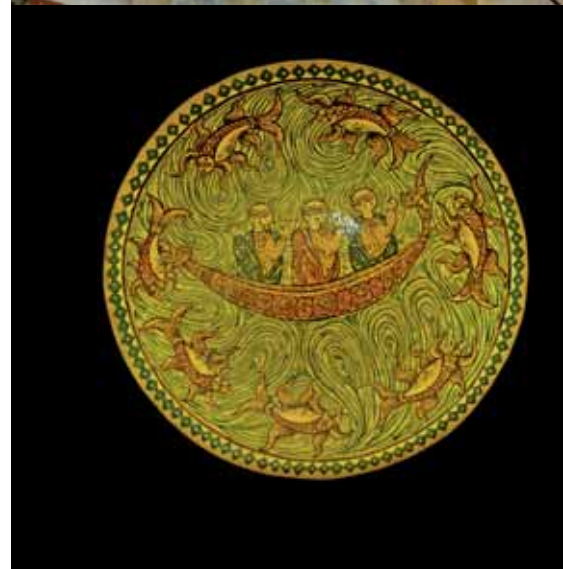
Andranik Gulanyan, sculptor / Aygehovit village / Phone: (+374) 77 43 67 83

Norik Ghukasyan, woodcraft / Aygehovit village / Phone: (+374) 77 24 50 83

Dilijan

Geological Museum and Art Gallery of Dilijan / 28, Miasnikyan Str., Dilijan / Phone: (+374) 268 24 450, (+374) 268 24 451 / E-mail: gartmuseum@gmail.com, dilijan.museum@yandex.ru, dilija-museum.ucoz.com / Contact: Ghazar Ghazaryan, director / Working hours: Tue. – Sun. (10:00 am – 6:00 pm). Entrance fee: 500 AMD. Guide: 1500 AMD (Armenian) – 2000 AMD (Russian, English and German). The museum was founded in 1950 and provides a comprehensive view of the history of the Dilijan region, the historical development of its inhabitants, their way of life, material culture, monuments, historical and geographical conditions. The art gallery features some rare paintings by Armenian masters, as well as Dutch, Italian and French painters.

Dilijan Folk Art Museum / 1, Getapnya Str., Dilijan / Phone: (+374) 91 70 30 47 / E-mail: gmakvetsyan@mail.ru / Web: www.folkartcentre.am / Contact: Gevorg Makvetsyan, director / Working hours: Tue. – Sat. (11:00 am – 5:00 pm), Sun. (11:00 am – 4:00 pm). Entrance fee: 300 AMD for adults; 100 AMD for children. Guide: 1500 AMD (Armenian and Russian). Dilijan Folk Art Museum after Hovhannes Sharambeyan is a branch of the Folk Art Center in Yerevan. The Museum of Folk Art in Dilijan was established in 1979 in one of the oldest buildings in the region, constructed in 1896. The house belonged to Princess Mariam Tumanian (1870) and served as a summer house. Several well-known Armenian writers and artists have lived in this summer house including Hovhannes Tumanian, Yeghishe Charents, Azniv Hrachya and philologist Sergey Vardanyan. The latest resident of



the house was Hovhannes Sharambeyan, who reorganized it into a Museum of Folk Art. He travelled a lot around Armenia and collected the majority of the artefacts by himself. The Museum has 9 halls where Armenian folk artworks and ethnographic objects are displayed. The museum has 843 artifacts, out of which 543 are permanently exhibited.

“Yesayan” Museum and Tufenkian Carpets Show Room / “Old Dilijan” Complex, Sharambeyan Str., Dilijan / Phone: (+374) 94 13 09 13, (+374) 91 67 29 78, (+374) 55 74 57 70 / Contact: Siran Isakhanyan, guide / Working hours: Tue. – Sun. (10:00 am – 6:00 pm). Entrance fee: free of charge. Guide: 500 AMD (Armenian, Russian, English). The “Yesayan” museum within the “Old Dilijan” Complex has 3 exhibition rooms which present the lifestyle of the Dilijan family from the 19th century, as well as a collection of Tufenkian handmade carpets.

Dilijan branch of Yerevan State Academy of Fine Arts / Emma Tsaturyan Str., Dilijan / Phone: (374) 268 26 184, (+374) 91 78 61 40 / Web: www.yafa.am

Dilijan Art School after Hovhannes Sharambeyan, Gallery / 62a, Kalinini Str., Dilijan / Phone: (+374) 268 24 009 / E-mail: artschool-dilijan@rambler.ru

Dilijan State College of Arts / 57, Kalinini Str., Dilijan / Phone: (+374) 268 27 486, (+374) 268 27 488 / E-mail: artpiano@mail.am

“Goshavank” Historical and Architectural Reserve / Gosh village, 3907 / Phone: (+374) 10 54 55 70

Ashot Babayan’s Art Studio / 26, Miasnikyan Str., Dilijan / Phone: (+374) 91 74 81 49

Gevorg Makvetsyan’s Art Studio / 56, Gorki Str., Dilijan / Phone: (+374) 268 27 003, (+374) 91 70 30 47 / E-mail: gmakvetsyan@mail.ru / Web: www.art.online-dilijan.am

Ghazar Ghazaryan’s Art Studio / 12a, Miasnikyan Str., Dilijan / Phone: (+374) 268 27 059, (+374) 91 78 61 40

Arsen Goghchyan’s Ceramic Workshop / Tufenkian “Old Dilijan”, Sharambeyan Str., Dilijan / Phone: (+374) 93 43 34 65 / E-mail: goghchyan-art@mail.ru / Facebook: Arsen Goghchyan. While here, you can observe the artist at work, as well as purchase different ceramic products.

Grisha Hovsepyan’s Art Studio / Tufenkian “Old Dilijan”, Sharambeyan Str., Dilijan / Phone: (+374) 55 40 50 07. Here, you can see the process of woodcarving and purchase wooden khachkars, boxes, amulets and other craftwork.

Hamlet Asatryan’s Art Studio / 2/8, Getapnaya str., Dilijan / Phone: (+374) 93 24 32 36

Hrach Hayrapetyan’s Art Studio / 17, Sayat-Nova Str., Dilijan / (+374) 93 11 77 54

Samvel Frangulyan’s Art Studio / 1/3, 1st Str., Dilijan / Phone: (+374) 94 94 58 94

“Budu Art” Art Studio and Gift Shop / 34, Miasnikyan Str., Dilijan / Phone:

(+374) 93 61 51 77, (+374) 94 27 04 82 / E-mail: buduart@mail.ru / Web: www.armanbadeyan.weebly.com / Contacts: Margarita Malkhasyan and Arman Badeyan. Margarita and Arman are a young couple of artists who own this interesting gift-shop, where they sell their own art together with the artworks and craftworks of their friends. Assortment includes: paintings, graphics, woodwork, ceramics, batik and other different forms of applied arts.

Souvenir Shop / Tufenkian “Old Dilijan” Complex, Sharambeyan Str., Dilijan / Phone: (+374) 95 09 99 97 / E-mail: souvenirshop@gmail.com / Contact: Lusine Abazyan, owner. The shop is located within the “Old Dilijan” Complex and has a good selection of souvenirs and artisan craftworks.

Tavush

Berd Museum of Local History and Life / 15, Saralanj Str., Berd / Phone: (+374) 94 81 62 57 / Contact: Artur Yerkanyan, director / Working hours: Tue. – Sun. (9:00 am – 6:00 pm). Entrance fee: Free of charge. The Berd Museum of Local History and Life was established in 1980 and has 400 m2 of exhibition space. The museum has over 600 artifacts and features an exhibition of historical, archaeological and ethnographical displays starting from Bronze Age up to the 20th century.

“Wilhelm Matevosyan” Art Studio / 26a, Wilhelm Matevosyan Str., Berd / Phone: (+374) 96 30 18 24, (+374) 267 23 989 / Contact: Elmira Matevosyan and Lessing Aghakaryan. Wilhelm Matevosyan was an art critic, scientist and publicist. The art studio is located in his home house and contains a collection of his personal belongings, paintings and books. Another section of the house holds a painting and woodcraft studio. Wilhem’s sister Elmira makes embroidery icons and knits, while Lessing paints and carves wood. They organize painting workshops for children.

Berd Women Resource Center Foundation / 3 Hayk Nahapet Str., Berd / Phone: (+374) 55 75 25 94, (+374) 94 33 02 03 / E-mail: berd@berdbears.com, anbadalian@gmail.com / Web: www.berdbears.com / Contacts: Anahit Badalyan, director; Seda Hovakimyan, coordinator. Berd Bears is an initiative in the town of Berd, to create gainful employment for women through the sale of high-quality, handmade teddy bears. They also make handbags, covers for chairs and packages for medicinal herbs, which they also collect. All products are available in their office, where a small showroom is set up.

Silver craft and Souvenir Workshop / 33/9, Mashtots Str., Berd / Phone: (+374) 77 58 15 58, (+374) 93 38 07 08 / Facebook: Nubar Sahakyan / Contacts: Nubar Sahakyan and Kano Navasardyan. Kano is a skillful jeweler who works mostly with silver and gold. He creates all types of jewelry including Faberge style egg masterpieces. His wife Nubar makes ceramic magnets and other souvenirs. Prices: Faberge style eggs- \$3000 to \$5000; fridge magnets – 500 to 1000 AMD.

Noyemberyan

“Historical museum of Koghb / 10, 1st Str., Koghb village / Phone: (+374) 266 52 599, (+374) 77 75 57 55, (+374) 94 87 30 95 / E-mail: terarsenyan@mail.ru / Web: www.koghb.am / Working hours: Mon. – Fri. (10:00 am – 4:00 pm) / Contact: Arman Ter-Arsenyan, director; Aharon Bejanyan, accountant. The Historical Museum of Koghb was founded in 1970 based on an initiative begun by Suren Abovyan, who was the director of the Cultural House of Koghb from 1946 until 1999. The museum presents the history of Koghb from the late Bronze Age to the last decade of the 20th century. The artifacts displayed here were found during excavations, construction projects, or by agricultural endeavors, and are grouped to represent different eras. The museum has several unique objects, including a well preserved sword from a stone tomb and clay vessels 3000-3700 years old. There are other interesting artifacts, including coins, models of temples that existed in Koghb, and handicrafts.

Koghb Charity Art School / Koghb village / Phone: (+374) / E-mail: koghbartschool.am@rambler.ru, koghbartschool.am@gmail.com, koghb.am@gmail.com / Web: www.koghbartschool.am / Contact: Karapet Ghulijanyan, director. Karapet Ghuledjanyan opened the Koghb Charity Art School (KCAS) in 1999. The purpose of the school is to give art education to children who live in border regions, to teach them an appreciation for the arts and enrich their lives through culture. The school teaches drawing, painting, composition, design, ceramics, handicrafts, modeling, sculpting, music, photography, the history of art, and acting. Every year, young people apply to become students of the school, which is free of charge. Several students who have graduated from KCAS currently attend universities throughout Armenia, but regularly return to organize and attend art school events. The school has a comfortable studio for students to practice in and a summer camp in natural surroundings. The school is not limited to teaching art; they also organize various cultural events for the community, including exhibitions, holiday celebrations, meetings with artists, and symposiums. Tourist visits and painting/art master classes are free of charge. Visitors cover only the food costs. Volunteers who would give art classes to children for free are welcomed.

“Yereknuk” Handcrafts / Koghb village / E-mail: annakgd@rambler.ru, satenikkgd@rambler.ru / Web: www.koghbartschool.am / Contacts: Anna Nasibyan, Satenik Ghulijanyan. “Yereknuk” Handcrafts are established by three teachers from the Koghb Charity Art School with the aim to raise money for the school.

INSTITUTIONS

Dilijan National Park / 2, Tbilisian highway, Dilijan / Phone: (+374) 268 27 032, (+374) 268 27 171, (+374) 93 03 37 44 / Contact: Ashot Davtyan, director. Dilijan National Park Info Center provides information, guided tours for groups and individuals, as well as rentals of tents, horses and cars. The center can also organize accommodation (1- 7 days), excursions to Yenokavan and Sevan, taxi service including transport from Zvartnots airport to Dilijan. Price: approx. 45000 AMD/per day including accommodation with full board, guide services and transportation.

Ijevan Dendropark / 21, Usanoghakan Str., Ijevan / Phone: (+374) 94 55 56 88, (+374) 55 55 56 88, (+374) 91 55 56 88 / Contact: Mekhak Sayadyan. Ijevan Dendropark was established in 1962 and occupies 14.5 hectares. There are approximately 750 species of trees and shrubs from all over the world, out of which 640 are well adapted to the land-climate conditions of Ijevan. There is a possibility of buying and planting trees. The park can provide tents for those who want to camp there. Guiding fees: 10000 AMD/h.

“Zikatar” Nature Protection Visitor and Training Center / 10 km from Koghb village / Phone: (+374) 93 18 90 09, (+374) 266 52 772, (+374) 10 56 30 81 / E-mail: zikatar_center@yahoo.com / Web: www.zikatar.am / Contact: Haikaz Ghulijanyan, director. “Zikatar” Nature Protection Visitor and Training Center provides trainings on nature protection, accommodation for the participants of the trainings and guided excursions. Accommodation consists of 7 (2 single, 2 double, 3 triple) rooms with bathrooms, 2 cottages with 3 bedrooms for 6 persons and one cottage with 4 bedrooms for 9 persons, with a maximum capacity of 40 people.

FOOD PRODUCERS / AGRITOURISM

Ijevan

Zarmair Mardanyan, Gandzakar village deputy mayor / 1, 1st lane, 34th Str., Gandzakar village / Phone: (+374) 94 46 96 07. Eco food production; food catering available and possibility for agritourism development.

Noyemberyan

Olive Garden / Bagratashen village / Phone: (+374) 94 99 11 06, (+374) 99 99 11 07 / Contact: Ashot Bejanyan, owner. It is the only olive garden in Armenia, located 3 km from the village of Bagratashen. The garden was planted in 1947 and covers the territory of 51 ha.

ACTIVITIES / GUIDES

“Apaga Tour” Tour Operator / 1st Str., Yenokavan village, 4019, Ijevan Region and 22a /48a, Abovyan Str., Yerevan / Phone: (+374) 91 29 07 99, (+374) 99 25 01 25 / E-mail: info@apaga.info / Web: www.apaga-tour.com / Contact: Artak and Irina Chibukhchyan, sales manager. Adventure, bicycle, bird-watching, eco, ethnographic, horse riding, off-roading, and village tours in Tavush.

“Anapat” Eco and Sport Camp / Lastiver / Phone: (+374) 94 60 30 10, (+374) 93 36 54 37 / Facebook: Lastiver (Anapat) / Contacts: Hovhannes and Vahagn Tananyan. “Anapat” camp near the Khachagbyur River is in a beautiful spot with some wonderful bathing pools and cascades nearby. The Tananyans can show you some caves in the area, some 30m deep. The most interesting is Anapat Cave, which contains unique pre-Christian carvings of faces and human forms. Accommodation: 7 wooden shelters, 2 yurts, and a small tree house for a maximum of 40 people. For larger groups they can provide tents. Other facilities include a camp site for tents, a toilet with sun-heated douche and 11 open-air pavilions (7 for 40 people, 3 for 10 and one for 20). Activities: fishing, hiking, alpinism, target shooting, campfire. Hiking: Lastiver cave hiking trail and several other tracks up to 10 km. Three certified climbing instructors. Food catering is available. Language: Russian. Prices: 1000 AMD/day/person including a short hike to the cave; overnight - 5000 AMD; full board - 15000 AMD.

“Dilijan Hiking Club” / 21, Hakobyan Str., Dilijan / Phone: (+374) 77 77 92 06 / E-mail: dilijanhikingclub2@gmail.com, vazgen-frangulyan@rambler.ru / Web: www.dilihikingclub.ucoz.com / Contact: Vazgen Frangulyan, mountain guide. Hiking tours to: Haghartsin Monastery, Parz Lake, Goshavank monastery, Ayridasht, Jukhtak Monastery, Dilijan Mountains, Nane waterfall.

Samvel Zhamharyan, mountain guide / Contact via Dilijan NP

“Sport” Camp-Sanatorium / Abovyan Str., Dilijan / Phone: (+374) 268 27 021

LEISURE AREAS

Ijevan

“Khaghaghutyun Ashkharhin” Leisure Area / Ijevan / Phone: (+374) 91 36 54 37

Dilijan

“Pavilons” Dilijan Leisure Area / Tbilisyan Highway (5th km of Dilijan-Ijevan highway, adjacent to “Getap” restaurant) / Phone: (+374) 94 31 61 81

“Parz Lich” Leisure Area / Parz Lake, Dilijan / Phone: (+374) 60 51 10 00

“Belveder” Eco Rest Zone / Dilijan-Ijevan highway and Chambarak road intersection / Phone: (+374) 94 80 09 09, (+374) 55 70 09 09 / E-mail: Belveder0909@gmail.com / Web: www.belveder.am / Facebook: Belveder Eco rest zone. “Belveder” rest zone is lo-

cated 500 m from Dilijan-Ijevan highway, on the bank of Getik River. Comfortable open-air pavilions envisaged for 4-40 people, a hall, kitchen, campsite for tents and a guarded parking. Pre-orders can be accepted.

“Kari Lake” Leisure Area / Kari Lake, Hovk village / Phone: (+374) 93 96 00 09, (+374) 77 57 77 75, (+374) 99 99 99 57, (+374) 77 57 77 75 (Jirik) / Facebook: Lake Kari Sports & Recreation / Contacts: Mher and Jirik Meliqsetyan, owners; Anna Sahakyan. Kari Lake is a small, clean lake located in the Hovk village municipality, suitable for fishing, camping and leisure. There are three open-air pavilions (for 20 people each), 3 tents (for four people each) with sleeping bags and one pedal boat for rent. Food is not provided. Prices: pavilion - 20000 AMD/day. Language: English.



DILIJAN

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SHAMAKHYAN (POGHOSGEGH)

Jukhtakvank &
Matosavank Monasteries,
Dilijan Mineral Water

ԲԼԴԱՆ
BLDAN

"Mimino" Hotel

"Dilijan" Hotel
Resort & Spa

"Rubenyants Tun" B&B

"Magnit" B&B

Great Dom. War

"Dilijan"
Stadium

RA Central Bank

Sov. Arm.

Folk Art

Art School

Trading center

City Lake

Fine Arts Academy

"Letchap"

Dilijan Info-Center

"Nina" B&B

"Dili-Villa" B&B

Dilijan National Park

Municipality

Supermarket

"Tufenkyan Old Dilijan" Complex,

"Aramara" Gifts shop, "Artbridge" Bookstore & Cafe

Dilijan Historical-Cult. & Lore Museums,

Hall of Culture, Majors Office, Central Library

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OLD DILIJAN

"Dili-Villa" B&B

"Nina" B&B

"Dili-Villa" B&B

"Dili-Villa" B&B

"Dili-Villa" B&B

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AZATAMUT - 14 km

ԳԵՏԱՍՏՈՒՄՆԻՍ
GETASTUMNIS

IJEVAN

ՄԵՏԱԿԱԳՈՐԶՆԵՐ
METAKHAGORTNER

«Քրիստոսը»
Qarvansara

Արա Գեղեցիկ B&B
Ara Geghysik B&B

Մարգարտշեր-ՏԻ
Margharatsher-Ti

Կոմունիստական փողոց
Kommunistakan pholots

Վեսիլյան ՏԻ
Vesilyan-Ti

Տարեք Օհանյան փողոց
Tarekx Ohanyan pholots

Գարեգին Նշեմի փողոց
Garegin Nshemi pholots

Կոմունիստական փողոց
Kommunistakan pholots

Սարեք Օհանյան փողոց
Sarekx Ohanyan pholots

Սարեք Օհանյան փողոց
Sarekx Ohanyan pholots

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Sarekx Ohanyan pholots

Սարեք Օհանյան փողոց
Sarekx Ohanyan pholots

Dilijan - 37 km, Yerevan - 136 km

Իջևանի բուսաբանական այգի
Ijevan Botanical Garden

Պատմա-երկրաբանական թանգարան
Historical Geological Mus.

ԵՎԵՏՍՏԱՆԻ ՏԱԳՈՐԶ
VEGTSUTANIS TAGORTZ

ԵՎԵՏՍՏԱՆԻ ՄԱՍՈՒՆԱԴՐՈՐԴ
Ijevan Branch of Yerevan State University

Սոցիալական Գիտությունների
Համալսարան
Social Sciences University

Սոցիալական Գիտությունների
Համալսարան
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Համալսարան
Social Sciences University

Gandzakar - 1 km, Berd - 45 km

ՊԱՅՄԱՆԱՆԱԾՆԱԼՆԵՐ

քաղաքի տարածք	քաղաքի տարածք	պալատական	պալատական
City territory	City territory	Museums	Museums
գյուղեր	գյուղեր	հուշարձաններ	հուշարձաններ
villages	villages	Monuments	Monuments
այլ հողեր	այլ հողեր	թատրոն	թատրոն
other lands	other lands	Theatres	Theatres
բնակարանային տներ	բնակարանային տներ	գյուղական	գյուղական
living houses	living houses	Cultural Inst.	Cultural Inst.
հասարակական շինություններ	հասարակական շինություններ	գրադարան	գրադարան
public houses	public houses	Libraries	Libraries
անհատական տնտեսական տնտեսական	անհատական տնտեսական տնտեսական	գյուղական	գյուղական
private sector	private sector	factories	factories
կրոնական շինություններ	կրոնական շինություններ	գյուղական	գյուղական
churches	churches	factories	factories

LEGEND

պալատական	պալատական	պալատական	պալատական
Museums	Museums	Museums	Museums
հուշարձաններ	հուշարձաններ	հուշարձաններ	հուշարձաններ
Monuments	Monuments	Monuments	Monuments
թատրոն	թատրոն	թատրոն	թատրոն
Theatres	Theatres	Theatres	Theatres
գյուղական	գյուղական	գյուղական	գյուղական
Cultural Inst.	Cultural Inst.	Cultural Inst.	Cultural Inst.
գրադարան	գրադարան	գրադարան	գրադարան
Libraries	Libraries	Libraries	Libraries
գյուղական	գյուղական	գյուղական	գյուղական
factories	factories	factories	factories
գյուղական	գյուղական	գյուղական	գյուղական
factories	factories	factories	factories

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GUIDE BOOK