

# Haghpat Monastery, Zarni-Parni Cave Complex, Akhtala Fortress, Aramyants Castle, Sanahin Monastery

📍 Haghpat, Alaverdi community, Lori Province, Armenia



This group excursion will last almost a whole day, but even after a long time you will be filled with positive impressions from it. It is dedicated to the Lori region. First, you will admire the 10th century Haghpat Monastery, where the famous ashugh Sayat-Nova lived and worked at the end of the 18th century. Next on the route is the majestic Zarni-Parni cave-fortress complex, where, according to some historical records, the famous scientist and philosopher Hovhannes Imastaser once lived and worked. Now the territory has been turned into a historical museum, where ancient rare agricultural tools and household items are exhibited. Then you will go to Akhtala Fortress, which is located on a plateau that at first glance resembles a peninsula, surrounded by deep gorges on three sides. You will visit the Aramyants Castle, one of the gems of Swiss architecture in Armenia. At the end of the program Visit Sanahin Monastery, where you can get acquainted with the mastery of 10th century architects. Thanks to the latter, the monastery was given a unique architectural solution, protecting it from the consequences of possible earthquakes. By the way, both Haghpat and Sanahin monasteries are included in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List.

Duration:

12-13 hours , Start time: 09:00

*If you want to book an **individual excursion** to get detailed information, to get acquainted with the conditions and pricing policy, call the following number:*

**Phone: +374-10-612-999**

## Tour Facts

Language:  
**ENGLISH, RUSSIAN, PARSIAN**

Duration:  
**13-14**

Tour Type:  
**continuous**

## Tour Itinerary

### 9:00 : 1. Haghpat Monastery



Situated not far from Sanahin, Haghpat monastery has its significant place in the historical and cultural life of Armenia. It was built during the reign of king Ashot Bagratuni. Numerous valuable manuscripts and miniature paintings have been produced in the scriptorium of Haghpat for many centuries. In the 18th century the famous Armenian bard Sayat-Nova used to live and create in this monastery. The belfry with its unique architectural composition is of stunning interest. The site is included in UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List.

### 12:00 : 2. Zarni-Parni Cave Castle Complex



Zarni-Parni is a cave castle complex in Lori region. It is located in a forest canyon with a magnificent view of the Kayan fortress, which is close to the village of Haghpat, famous for its monastery. The complex consists of the "Zarni er" and "Parni er" castles, as well as the "Tsaker" cave. Some historical records note, that renowned scholar and philosopher Hovhannes Imastaser used to live and work in this cave. Currently the area is turned into a historical museum, where one can find number of rare ancient agricultural tools and household items.

Near the cave there is a tavern and winery to enjoy local drinks and dishes of Armenian cuisine.

Evening time can be well "spiced" with a splendid view from the observation deck over a bonfire (at an additional cost of 10 000 AMD).

### 14:00 : Lunch stop





Optional lunch in the local traditional restaurant on own expense. One may choose between 3 different options:

Option 1 (vegetarian) – 3500 AMD per person

Option 2 – 3900 AMD per person

Option 3 – 4500 AMD per person

### 16:30 : 3. Akhtala Fortress



The Akhtala fortress is situated in Lori district. It is constructed on a plateau resembling a peninsula, surrounded with deep gorges from three sides. In the 10th century the masons could exactly derive benefit from the nature in order to make the fortress more fortified.

The fortress is strengthened with huge ramparts and there are two pyramid-shaped watchtowers, rising above from both sides of the main entrance. The monastery of Akhtala, comprised of three churches, is in the territory of the fortress.

### 18:00 : 4. Aramyants Castle



The Aramyants castle, one of the jewels of Swiss architecture, is situated in the town of Akhtala in Lori region. It is distinguished for its magnificent appearance and interesting history of 120 years. The castle belonged to Mikael Aramyants, a prominent Armenian businessman, living in Tbilisi. It was built for his daughter with pneumonia, since Akhtala has the best climate in the entire Caucasus region. Many famous people used to spend their holidays in the town,

among them opera singer Fiodor Shalyapin, Armenian poet Hovhannes Tumanyan, spiritual and cultural figure Khrimyan Hayrik and others.

The castle of Mikael Aramyants has its own place in the pages of Armenian history, as the declaration of the First Republic of Armenia was adopted here.

### 20:30 : 5. Sanahin Monastery



The monastery of Sanahin is on the right bank of Debed river. This architectural complex consists of several churches, seminary, book depository. The building of the seminary, which connects St. Astvatsatsin (Holy Mother of God) and Allsaviour churches, was from the outset built to make the edifices more earthquake-resistant. The

site is included in UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List.