



HALI TOUR

21-27 September 2015

Decorative Arts
of
Armenia



Welcome

I am delighted to introduce the HALI Tour to Armenia – a diverse country with a rich and long-standing weaving heritage that deserves to be better known and more widely celebrated.

Ben Evans

Editor, HALI Publications Limited



Gndevank Monastery, 10th–13th century

A gentle, spiritual atmosphere is tangible in the landscapes and buildings of Armenia, whose skyline is dominated by the dramatic Mount Ararat. The region is integral to the history of rugs and textiles, both in terms of production and trade. 2015 is an important year for the Armenian nation, with memorial services capturing the world's attention.

As with all HALI Tours, carpets and textiles are the starting point, with in-depth commentary and exclusive access to museum stores and private collections. Armenian culture and cuisine, Christian and Soviet history, classical architecture, ancient monuments and spectacular works of art will be encountered in the company of experts as we explore the significance of Armenian involvement in rug weaving and textile design in the Caucasus and beyond. Luxury, handpicked accommodation is provided throughout.

'I enjoyed every aspect of the tour.'

HALI Tour participant: J. Rutherford, Australia

'The level of expertise, for even small fragments or historical reference, was astonishing. The level of knowledge from specialists, dealers, editors and participants was most impressive!'

HALI Tour participant: C. Berezuk, USA



Armenian embroidered towel, Hovannes Sharambeyan Museum of Folk Art

Itinerary in detail

HALI tours represent the distillation of more than thirty-five years of HALI articles and the experience gathered through their preparation. A member of the HALI editorial team and an experienced local guide will accompany the group throughout the tour and will be joined by curators and specialists to provide enlightening commentary.

There is some opportunity for independent exploration at your leisure, with free time scheduled in various locations.



Armenian woman's apron, Hark, 18th century, History Museum of Armenia

DAY 1

Monday 21 September

YEREVAN

ACCOMMODATION: **Tufenkian Historic Yerevan Hotel**

History Museum of Armenia: Classical carpets, a wide variety of quality needlework and other Armenian decorative arts.

Lunch at Dolmama Restaurant, one of Yerevan's finest dining establishments.

National Gallery of Armenia: major collection of European, Russian, Armenian and Oriental art.

Dinner and cultural programme.



Dragon carpet (detail), 17th century, Museum of Sardarapat

DAY 2

Tuesday 22 September

ECHMIADZIN

ACCOMMODATION: **Tufenkian Historic Yerevan Hotel**

Matenadaran

One of the world's richest repositories of medieval illuminated manuscripts.

Echmiadzin Cathedral & Museum

The ancient capital city is home to the famed cathedral – one of the world's first Christian churches, built in AD 301. The remarkable and rare collection of Indian chintz altar cloths comprises textiles commissioned by Armenian churches in the 18th century. Included is special access to the residence of the Katolikos (Head of Armenian Apostolic Church).

Sardarapat National Ethnographic Museum

Classical carpets in a purpose-built museum on the grounds of the Battle of Sardarapat memorial site.

Megerian Carpet Co.

Enjoy a warm reception from the family-run Armenian carpet company.



13th century tympanum above the door to St. Karapet church, Noravank

DAY 3

Wednesday 23 September

VAYATS DZOR

ACCOMMODATION: **Avan Marak Tsapatagh Hotel**

Travel from Yerevan

Noravank Monastery: 13th-century building in a narrow river gorge with a unique two-storey church with decorative stone carvings.

Areni-1 Cave: geological complex where Bronze Age archaeological artefacts have been discovered.

Yeghegnadzor Museum

Yeghegis Gorge and 12th-century Jewish Cemetery

Selim Pass & Caravanserai: Medieval caravanserai in the Selim mountains



DA Tours Co.

Cilicia on Lake Sevan



DA Tours Co.

Mountain scenery of the Armenian Highlands



Christian virgin and child icon, Treasury of the Museum of Fine Arts, Georgia



Contemporary Armenian embroidery

DAY 4 Thursday 24 September

LAKE SEVAN

ACCOMMODATION: **Avan Dzoraget Hotel**

Museum of Ethnography & Carpets

Lake Sevan: Tour the largest lake in the Caucasus Region on the Cilicia, a replica of a 13th-century Armenian merchant sailing ship. Sample local shellfish and visit picturesque holy sites on the lake shore, including the medieval Noratus cemetery with Safavid-influenced khachkar tombstones.

Rugs and embroideries in a private collection.

DAY 5 Friday 25 September

TBILISI

ACCOMMODATION: **Hotel Ambadori**

Travel to Tbilisi, Georgia, where grapevines tumble over the balconies of historic buildings, red-tiled roofs mix with stark Soviet architecture, and winding narrow streets reveal cultural and culinary delights.

DAY 6 Saturday 26 September

TBILISI

ACCOMMODATION: **Tufenkian Historic Yerevan Hotel**

Pushkin Museum

National Museum of Georgia: The gold treasury of pre-Christian items from the 3rd millennium BC.

Shalva Amiranashvili Museum of Fine Arts: Persian Qajar paintings and oriental textiles.

Dry Bridge Antiques Market: bric-a-brac and antiques from pre-Soviet and Soviet periods.

Walking tour of the old town

Sioni cathedral: An active holy site with a rich history.

Return to Yerevan

DAY 7: Sunday 27 September

YEREVAN

ACCOMMODATION: **Tufenkian Historic Yerevan Hotel**

Vernissage Market: a weekend arts and crafts market that has been taking place since the 1970s – one of the most important and constant elements of cultural life in Yerevan.

Folk Arts Museum: Lunch sponsored by the Armenian Rug Society, exhibition of rugs and embroideries, lectures and question and answer session.

The Silk Road Cultural Centre: visit to the collection, weaving demonstration and evening reception

Hotels

Tufenkian Heritage Hotels in Armenia

is a luxury chain of world-class hotels owned by James Tufenkian, founder of Tufenkian Artisan Carpets and the Tufenkian Foundation. His aim is to provide luxury hospitality, so that the heritage, culture and craftsmanship of his ancestral homeland can be shared with contemporary travellers.

www.tufenkianheritage.com



DAYS 1-2 & 6-7 21-22, 26-27 Sept

TUFENKIAN HISTORIC YEREVAN HOTEL

ACCOMMODATION: ★★★★★

DURATION OF STAY: 2 nights & 2 nights

The newest of the Tufenkian hotels opened in 2012 in a purpose-built, classically styled building in the city centre. An outdoor swimming pool and café offer vistas of Old Yerevan, and the traditional Kharpert Restaurant proudly revives a rich Western Armenian culinary heritage.



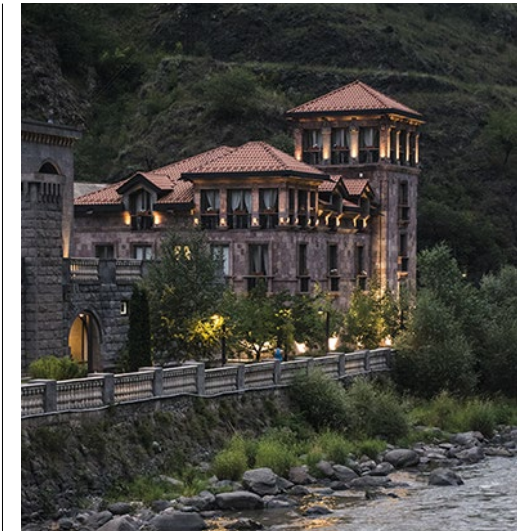
DAY 3 23 Sept

TUFENKIAN AVAN MARAK TSAPATAGH HOTEL

ACCOMMODATION: ★★★★★

DURATION OF STAY: 1 night

A tranquil rural retreat in a small farming and fishing village on the east shore Lake Sevan, with a warm climate, clear night skies and a relaxing lounge area, outdoor pool, hot tub and sauna.



DAY 4 24 Sept

TUFENKIAN AVAN DZORAGET HOTEL

ACCOMMODATION: ★★★★★

DURATION OF STAY: 1 night

Midway between Yerevan and Tbilisi, occupying the serene banks of the Debed River on the forest-covered, rocky slopes of the Caucasus Mountains. Decorative stonework details reference the romance of medieval Armenian history. There is a fitness centre with spa facilities and a restaurant serving Georgian and Armenian cuisine.





DAY 5

25 Sept

AMBASADORI HOTEL, TBILISI

ACCOMMODATION: ★★★★★

DURATION OF STAY: 1 night

Centrally located in the old town on the banks of the River Kur, with a rooftop bar and swimming pool.



Practicalities

Tour details

This includes:

- ❖ travel by private, air-conditioned coach
- ❖ hotel accommodation as described
- ❖ all meals - breakfasts in hotels, dinners and lunches in selected restaurants with wine or beer, soft drinks, water and tea or coffee provided
- ❖ all admissions
- ❖ all tips
- ❖ all state taxes
- ❖ the full time services of a local, English-speaking guide and HALI staff member

Pricing

Price: **£2,500** (deposit **£250**)

Single supplement **£300**

Booking

For further information, bookings and group rates please contact Rachel Meek

Rachel.meek@hali.com

+44 (0) 207 657 1220

It may be necessary to slightly amend the programme according to local conditions

Maximum group size 40 people, excluding staff

**HALI Subscribers receive a 10% discount.
The same discount is available to non subscribers
who book before 30 June**

HALI

For additional information, please contact:

Ben Evans ♦ +44 (0)207 657 1211 ♦ ben.evans@hali.com

Rachel Meek ♦ +44 (0)207 657 1220 ♦ rachel.meek@hali.com