

# Armenia -Part 2

## TOUR #21

### Destination :

#### KHOR VIRAP NORAVAK

Khor Virap is one of the most popular destinations in Armenia for a number of reasons. The large St. Astvatsatsin church at Khor Virap was built in the 17th century and is typical in design, but with a lack of virtually any decorative carving, or elements. It is located in a fort like complex with a nice courtyard. For most Armenians this is a very important site, and is easily accessible from Yerevan for a half day trip, or even better as a stop along the way to Southern Armenia or Karabakh. On weekends you will often see weddings, performances, snack stands, and doves being sold for release. In the summer it can be very hot here, so morning might be the best time to come. The gates are locked at night time as early as 5:30pm.



### Destination :

#### NORAVAK

Noravank is located at the end of a spectacular blood-red canyon; home to two of Armenia's most well known cave systems, a nesting eagle sanctuary, and some of the most spectacular scenery in the country. The canyon is impressive, with towering rock formations on either side of this gigantic land fissure that seems to have cracked apart only far enough to fit the road. The magnificent St. Astvatsatsin Church, designed by Momik the architect in the 14th century to house the remains of its donor, Burtel Orbelian, is three stories tall. Covered in detailed bas-reliefs on the outside, and topped with a unique open-air rotunda that allows sunshine to reflect around the church, its unique design and inspiring location leaves no tourist untouched.



### Destination :

#### ARENI WINE FACTORY

Areni Winery is one of Armenia's main attractions for connoisseurs of vintage wines. It is located 110 km from Yerevan, at the entrance to the small village of Areni. The winery is a two-storey stone building with an annexe. It has a cellar with bottles of wine, huge barrels, and a small production facility, as well as a café, souvenir shop, and, of course, a tasting room.

