EASTER PROGRAM

28 MAR: **Palm Sunday**

- **Palm Sunday is the feast of Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when Christ was hailed by the people as the Messiah and New King of Israel. On this day palms are blessed in church and distributed to the people.**
- Departure from …..

29 MAR: **Holy Monday**

- **Holy Monday is dedicated to the creation of the world, of Heaven and Earth, as the foundation of Christ’s second Creation.**
- Arrival early in the morning. Transfer to hotel. Rest at hotel. Tour starting at 11:00.
- Tour to Garni – pagan temple (1st c AD) the only survived monument of the Hellenistic period, Roman temple dedicated to the God of sun and Geghard – cave Monastery, the name „geghard“, derives from the relics of the Armenian Apostolic church: the spear that one of the Roman guards had used to pierce the rib of crucified Christ. In the village of Garni, process of making Armenian Bread „Lavash“, in a rustic house.
- Lunch/Dinner and overnight in Yerevan.

30 MAR: **Holy Tuesday**

- Yerevan tour/Museums: the Matenadaran – depository of ancient manuscripts, in number of value of manuscripts this establishment is considered to be one of the world’s oldest. History Museum.
- Lunch/Dinner and overnight in Yerevan.

31 MAR: **Holy Wednesday**

- Tour to the South of Armenia, visiting Monastery of Khor Virap – a famous pilgrimage site, where Gregory the Illuminator, who professed Christianity in Armenia and spent 13 years in a jail and then proceed to Vayots Dzor and visit Monastery of Noravank – one of the most splendid monuments of medieval Armenia, built in a location of significant natural beauty. Return to Yerevan, dinner and overnight.
- Lunch/Dinner and overnight in Yerevan.

01 APR: **Holy Thursday**

- **marks the institution of Holy Communion, which Christ distributed to his 12 apostles at the Last Supper.**
- Check out from hotel in Yerevan. Tour to the Lake Sevan – the highest mountainous Lake 2000 m above sea level, visiting the churches of the peninsula and proceed to Dillijan. Visit monastic complexes of Haghartsin – a monastery built in a picturesque location, concealed in a forest. Return to Yerevan.
- Lunch/Dinner and overnight in Yerevan.

02 APR: **Holy Friday**

- **the most solemn day for Christians. The crucifixion service usually held at midday, recalls the suffering, crucifixion and death of the Lord.**
- Tour of the North, mountainous region, unique with its beauty, visiting the biggest monastic complexes of Sanahin – the most important spiritual centre of Tashir Dzoraget, well known for its monks which were sent abroad as ambassadorial advisors and Haghpat – founded in the 10th c during the reign of Bagratuni, a number of splendid khachkars of the 11-13th cc are standing on the territory of the monastery, the best known among them is the „Amenaprkich“, khachkar with a sculpted crucifix.
- Lunch/Dinner and overnight in Yerevan.

03 APR: **Holy Saturday**

- **At the Easter Vigil of Holy Saturday, the mystery of salvation in the Resurrection of Christ is celebrated.**
- Tour to Amberd – fortress and castle (10-13cc) was familial estate of the Pahlavouni princes. It is one of the feudal castles of Armenia that has been more or less preserved to our days. Visit of the Monastery of Hovhanavank – the concert of spiritual music in the church. Proceed to Karmravor church in Ashtarak. Lunch in Ashtarak where you will assist at the preparation of the Holy
Easter in Armenian family, where you will have possibility to taste and see traditional cuisine (rice with raisins and dried fruits, Easter eggs coloured with peel of onion to make them red which symbolizes the blood of Christ). Later visit of Vernissage - open air market of souvenirs and art works.

Lunch/Dinner and overnight in Yerevan.

04 APR: EASTER SUNDAY- celebrates the joy of the Resurrection: The faithful share of joyous Easter feast, often including fish and coloured eggs (symbols of new life).
Tour to Echmiadzin Cathedral- holy city, official residence of Catholicos Armenian-The Holy Mass and celebration of EASTER after visit of Hripsime and ruins of Zvartnots Temple. Return to Yerevan.
Lunch/Dinner and overnight in Yerevan.

05 APR: Departure transfer to the airport.