

OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH

NEWS OF THE PLANS AND PREPARATIONS FOR NAASR'S
ARMENIAN HERITAGE TOURS, JULY, 1967

HERITAGE. Modern philosophers tell us that, in order to perpetuate a national existence, we must learn from the lessons drawn from history. With these thoughts in mind NAASR organized several unprecedented and original tours which will offer its members and friends an opportunity to partake in cultural and educational activities and to relive our history while touring the ancient lands of our forebears. A visit to these lands of history, legend, and tradition - enhanced by "on-the-spot" lectures by Armenian authorities - will bring new meaning to your life, and its memory will linger forever.

HIGHLIGHTS. A land journey by chartered modern German Mercedes buses through the interior of Turkey will highlight the 30-day tour (Tour #1) as well as one of the 21-day tours (Tour #3). It will include visits to such historical places as Musa Dagh, cities in the former Armenian kingdom of Cilicia, Kharpet, Dikranagerd, Van and the famous island of Aghtamar, the ruins of Ani near Kars, and Mt. Ararat. Also, included in the 30-day tour will be short visits to the Mekhitarist Center in Venice, Istanbul, Beirut, Jerusalem, Aleppo and a week-long stay in Yerevan, Armenia, followed by two-day visits to Tiflis and Moscow prior to the return to the United States. (Tour #2 excludes Aleppo, Tiflis, and the interior of Turkey.)

RESERVATIONS. Recognizing the fact that there may be a lack of adequate and suitable accommodations in the interior of Eastern Turkey, the tour committee can accept only a limited number of reservations (total of 60) for Tours #1 and #3. Tour #2 is limited by the number of passenger seats made available by the air line. Thus, we urge you to send in your deposit of \$150 per person right away in order to reserve passage on the tour of your choice. The final balance is due by May 10, 1967. All-inclusive costs (air fare, buses, hotels, meals, etc.): Tour #1 - \$1125; Tours #2 and #3 - \$895 each. Please remember that Tour #1 is open only to NAASR members in good standing and their families.

ITINERARY. The itineraries for Tours #1 and #2 have been modified so as to include two nights in Jerusalem instead of one. Thus, only four nights will be spent in Beirut instead of five. Side trips to cities not mentioned in the itinerary may be arranged at an extra cost. Contact Edward K. Boghosian directly at Hye Travel Service-Afton Tours, Inc., 1776 Broadway, New York, N. Y. (Tel.: PLaza 7 - 9595) for information on feasibility and cost. Provisions for special group departure from California will be dependent upon the number of persons leaving from that area. The departure dates from New York City are still scheduled for July 3 for Tours #1 and #2 and July 11 for Tour #3. Subsequent tour newsletters will keep you posted on any other changes or special arrangements.

HOTELS. The following hotels, which have been recommended by the Pan American Travel Guide and other travel guides as being first class or superior, are scheduled to be used for our tours: Aleppo - Baron; Beirut - Alcazar; Istanbul - Park; Jerusalem-Jordan - Ambassador; Venice - Park; U. S. S. R. - In-Tourist. Accommodations in Turkey will be announced later.

TOUR PARTICIPANTS. Among those who have signed up for the tours already are: From California - Otto Bagdasarian, Lucy Chaderjian, Mr. & Mrs. Sam Donabedian, Haig Garabedian, Mrs. J. Michael Hagopian; from Massachusetts - Anahid Avakian, Mr. & Mrs. Sahag Dakesian, Mae Jurigian, Lucy Mardirosian, Charles Martin, Edward Nahigian, Mr. & Mrs. M. Shamgochian, Joanne Peterson, Massis N. Thomason, Mr. & Mrs. Manoog S. Young; from the District of Columbia - Dr. Arra S. Avakian and son, Mrs. A. C. Kohanski, Dr. Garo S. Matossian; from New York City - John Bazikian, Mrs. Anahid Bojekian, and Mrs. Florence Wheeler; from Rhode Island - Mrs. Roxanne K. Arzoomanian, Lucy Martiesian; and from Indiana - Sarkes Tarzian and daughter.

Tour reservations are increasing daily. We urge you to make yours NOW so that you will not be disappointed. Fill out and return the blank below:

National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, Inc.
175 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138 (Tel.: TR 6-7630)

() Please find enclosed \$ _____ for deposit (\$150 per person) for following person(s):
Tour No. Name

() Please send additional information about _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Please make your check for deposit payable to N. A. A. S. R., Inc.

SPECIAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

PASSPORTS. U. S. Passports should be obtained as soon as possible. Passports may be applied for before the Clerk of a Federal or State Court authorized to accept passport applications or at a Passport Agency, maintained by the U. S. Department of State in New York, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, Seattle, San Francisco, and Washington, D. C. Passports are valid for three years and can be renewed for an additional two years.

Non-citizens lawfully admitted to the U. S. as permanent residents must obtain a "Re-entry Permit" which is issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and is required of all non-citizens who wish to visit the U. S. S. R. and return to the U. S. A. Application for "Re-entry Permits" should be filed with an office of the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. Since it normally takes from one to three months to obtain a re-entry permit, we strongly recommend that application be made without delay. Fees for Passport and Re-entry Permit are \$10.00 each.

VISAS. You will need visas in order to visit the following countries: Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan, and the U. S. S. R. Non-citizens who are permanent residents and who plan to travel on a "Re-entry Permit" will also need visas for all the other countries they will visit.

Afton Tours, Inc., will secure all the necessary visas for those who have signed up for the ARME-NIAN HERITAGE TOURS. The fees for visas and handling charges will be approximately \$15.00 per person. In due time, you will receive all the necessary visa application forms, which should be filled out and returned to Afton Tours, Inc., with at least seven recent passport-size pictures. Your valid passport must accompany the completed visa applications. Your passport will be returned to you prior to your departure with all the visas attached.

VACCINATION CERTIFICATES. An "International Certificate of Vaccination" is required of all persons returning from a trip abroad. Only proof of smallpox vaccination is required for your trip. However, vaccinations for typhoid, poliomyelitis, and tetanus are recommended for all international travel. For travel in Turkey, we recommend vaccination against cholera. We also recommend vaccination against typhus for travel in the U. S. S. R. and the Middle East. Your own physician can administer these vaccinations. Your Certificate must be approved by an official local health agency. You can pick up a vaccination certificate form when you apply for your passport.

CANCELLATION FEES AND CHARGES. In the event that a person cancels his reservation, full refund of deposit will be made up to 40 days prior to departure date of the tour, less any expenses incurred. For cancellations made less than 40 days prior to departure date, a cancellation fee of 25% of the applicable air fare is required for Tours #2 and #3 and 10% for Tour #1, in accordance with proposed air line regulations in addition to any expenses incurred.

UNFORSEEN DELAYS AND CHANGES. In the event that during the trip, a person or persons are left behind either because of sickness or for any unforeseen reason, every effort will be made to assist such persons. Minor modifications of the basic itineraries of the tours will be subject to extra charge and may be made only if they do not prevent an individual from joining the main group at prescribed points.

WHAT TO TAKE ALONG AND HOW TO PACK. In due time prior to the departure dates, each person will receive valuable information on customs, currency, climate, clothing, cameras, insurance, first aid, and other travel hints and suggestions. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact the NAASR office or Edward K. Boghosian at Afton Tours, Inc., 1776 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10019 (Tel. : PLaza 7 - 9595).