

MUSIC, DANCE & CULTURAL TOUR IN ARMENIA



*** Yerevan ***
April 21 to 28, 2009

**Organized by Simona Jovič, Helene Eriksen
and Armenian Youth Center**

Itinerary

April 21st – Arrival and discovering of the city of Yerevan



Arrival. All the participants will be welcomed at the airport and transferred to the hotel. For our stay in Yerevan, we have chosen the 3 star Bass Hotel, located in the prestigious Aigedzor district in the heart of the capital. This garden-like hotel sits away from busy traffic and quietly overlooks beautiful Mt.Ararat. It is conveniently located just

around the corner from the subway and not far from the city center. The sauna with an indoor pool is free of charge for hotel guests as well as the fresh fruits in the lobby. For more information about the hotel, do not hesitate to visit their website : www.bass.am

In the evening, when everyone arrives, we will have a walk together and start exploring the city of Yerevan.



April 22nd – Introduction to Persian dance

Helene Eriksen will be teaching wonderful Persian dance as the opening workshop of our beautiful 20-hour workshop-series that we will be offering you during your stay in Armenia. This workshop will be for 2 1/2 hours in the morning. In the afternoon a local Armenian dancer and her musicians will join us for 3 hours to introduce us to the music, rhythms and dances of Armenia. Our goal for this trip is to explore and discover

the everyday life of Armenians and not just have a superficial touristic experience. And so we have chosen a dance studio in the center of town which we will travel to by metro! In the evening you will be free to explore Yerevan on your own or simply enjoy the sauna or the indoor pool of the hotel!



April 23rd – Day 3 – Armenian dance workshop

In the morning, Helene will continue teaching Persian dance. In the afternoon, our Armenian artist will join us again for 2 hours. The Armenian dance heritage is one of the oldest, richest and most

varied in the Near East. In this workshop will be taught the women dances of Armenia, which are very graceful and lyrical and express the natural pride of Armenian women.

In the evening we will take you to one of the many places in Yerevan with traditional live music.



April 24th – Yerevan city tour and Tsitsernakaberd

Our partners from the Armenian Youth Center will take us for the whole day on a city tour of Yerevan. We will discover the richness of one of the oldest cities in the world (its origins are in the 8th century B.C.) with a local guide. We will visit Republic Square, the Opera House, Matenadaran, the Cascade, Mother Armenia & Victory Park, Surp Grigor Lusavorich Cathedral and more! After lunch in a traditional restaurant (included in the price), we will go to Tsitsernakaberd. On the April 24th, people from all around Armenia come to Tsitsernakaberd, a memorial dedicated to the victims of the Armenian genocide of 1915 during the last

years of the Ottoman Empire. We are lucky to be there on that day and share this important moment with Armenian people from around the world!



April 25th – Introduction to Čoček, roma dance from southern Balkans

This morning, Simona Jovič will introduce her Roma dance workshop (2 1/2 hours). She will be teaching Čoček, a Roman dance from south of Serbia, Macedonia,

Bulgaria and Albania. In the afternoon, the Armenian music and dance workshop will continue. (3hours)

In the evening, we will have a drink or dinner in a restaurant with the live traditional music.





April 26th – Village tour + lunch with the locals

Our trip to Armenia isn't only about dancing. By taking you to Armenia, we want you to discover the real life of the Armenian people: how they live, what is their religion, how they cook, what are their traditions, etc.

This day will be perfect for that. Our partners from the Armenian Youth Center will take us to the heart of the country, to Ashtarak and the surrounding villages. We will visit some well known monasteries and most importantly; we will meet local people and have lunch with them!

April 27th – The last day of the Roma and Armenian workshops

One more day with a lot of dance...unfortunately the last one. In the morning, we will work on Roma dance and in the afternoon on Armenian dance. In the evening we will have a farewell party! We will go all together to a nice venue with music and share a moment (and maybe some dancing!) with our Armenian artists and organizers.

April 28th – Departure

In the morning, I hope we will find a moment to talk all together about our Armenian experiences, take group photos and exchange contact information. After that, all the participants will be transferred to the airport.



Pricing

COST:

➤ **995 Euros with dance workshop**

Includes:

- Transfers airport/hotel/airport
- Accommodation in the 3 star Bass Hotel near the city center (double occupancy)
- Breakfasts everyday and lunch on April 24th and April 26th
- Excursion to Ashatarek and other villages in the heart of Armenia by minibus, including lunch with the local people
- Yerevan city tour with a local guide in a minibus. Visits of Republic Square, Tsitsernakaberd, Opera House, Matenadaran, Cascade, Mother Armenia & Victory Park, Surp Grigor Lusavorich Cathedral. Lunch in an Armenian traditional restaurant included.
- 5 hours Persian dance workshop with Helene Eriksen
- 5 hours Balkan Roma dance workshop with Simona Jovič
- 10 hours Armenian dance workshop with local Armenian dancers and musicians

➤ **795 Euros without dance workshop**

Not included in the price : airfare, airport taxes, travel insurance, visa, transportation in the city (except the Yerevan and village tour), drinks and other meals than those mentioned above, tips.

About the Organizers



Simona Jovič
www.simonajovic.com

Simona Jovič is Serbian/Czech dancer and singer. She grew up near the Rromani communities of Serbia and the Czech Republic and she has been exploring Rromani culture for many years. She travelled the world and met nomadic peoples of Asia, North Africa and Europe. She performs and teaches the dances of the Rroma worldwide and is especially known for her knowledge of Balkan Rromani culture. She has often been praised, by both the Rromani and international press, as an *Ambassador of the Rroma*. She performs Balkan Roma dance with the Romani orchestra of Demiran Cerimovi from Vranje in southern Serbia.



Helene Eriksen
www.helene-eriksen.de

Helene Eriksen is a teacher and choreographer of traditional dances of the Balkans and Muslim world. She lectures and publishes on dance ethnology and costume studies. In order to do this she has conducted many research projects in Bulgaria, ex-Yugoslavia, Hungary, Romania, Greece, Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Egypt, the ex-USSR, Tunisia and Morocco as well as with immigrants in Germany, Canada and the USA. She speaks several Languages. She is an active member of the Study Group on Ethnochoreology (ICTM/ UNESCO). For many years she has been leading dance and culture study tours.

Armenian Youth Center

Armenian Youth Center is a Youth NGO. Their main objective is to promote intercultural learning and understanding through youth exchanges and cultural visits as well as seminars and conferences.

They are located in the city center and will be happy to welcome all of us in Yerevan and share with us their city, their culture and their traditions.