

FRIENDS OF MOUNT ATHOS: PILGRIMAGE 2013

Monasteries of Armenia and Western Georgia 26 October – 3 November 2013

Following the highly successful pilgrimages to France (2002), Greece (2004), Romania (2005), Finland (2006), Turkey (2007), Egypt (2008), the Black Sea (2009), Russia (2010), Georgia (2011), and Serbia (2012), the society is now organizing its eleventh excursion, this time to Armenia and western Georgia. The event will be for nine days (including travel) from 26 October to 3 November 2013.

Our itinerary will take us to old and new monasteries and churches in both regions. We shall begin in Armenia with a visit to Yerevan and the Cathedral of Etchmiadzine (we shall be received by the Catholicos of all Armenians, Karekin II, and Metropolitan Kallistos will address the theology students), the monasteries of Khor Virap, Noravank, Geghard, Sevanavank, Haritchavank (and others) as well as ancient churches and archaeological sites of Christian architecture.

In western Georgia we shall see the twelfth-century Vardzia cave city, the tenth-century Khertvisi fortress, the medieval monasteries of Zarzma, Sapara, Gelati, the Green Monastery, Timotesubani Church, Bagrati Cathedral, and Kutaisi, former capital of western Georgia.

Aside from our visit to these magnificent Christian monuments, we shall have the opportunity to savour the fine cuisine and wines of these territories, experience something of their cultures, and marvel at the astonishingly beautiful landscapes and scenery.

Team leader will be Metropolitan Kallistos. The maximum number of participants will be 50 and the cost (excluding flights **to Yerevan** and **from Tbilisi**) for accommodation, meals, guides, gratuities, donations, and domestic transportation will be around £1200.

If you wish to participate in this event, please notify Dimitri Conomos as soon as possible at 5 Moreton Road, Oxford OX2 7AX (dimitri2609@gmail.com) by completing the form below and posting it together with a **deposit of £500 per person by 10 January 2013**. Cheques should be made payable to the **FRIENDS OF MT ATHOS PILGRIMAGE ACCOUNT**. With restricted numbers the selection will be made on a first-come basis. The deposit is *non-refundable*. Those who apply after the first 50 applications have been accepted will, depending on the wish of the applicant, either be wait-listed or have their cheques returned.

Please notify Dimitri by email or telephone (07958 319375) that you have sent the deposit.

Name(s):

Address:

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Telephone, fax, email:

Signature(s):