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# WISDOM



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Լրատվական գործունեություն իրականացնող՝ «Խաչատուր Աբովյանի անվան  
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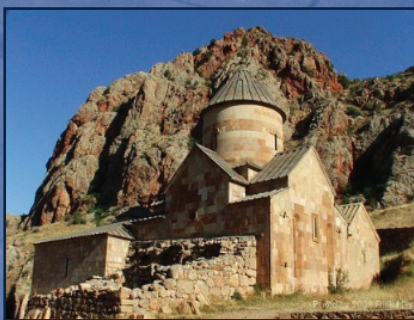
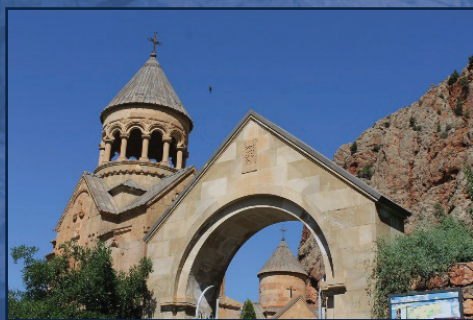
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Տպաքանակը՝ 200

Ծավալը՝ 231 էջ

# NORAVANK



<http://www.armenianheritage.org/hy/monument/Noravankbirdscave>

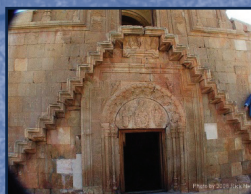
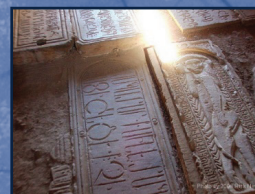
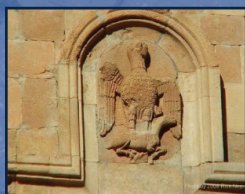
Noravank is a medieval Armenia sanctuary-monument that was founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, on the site of two twelve-century churches, and it was completed in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. A considerable number of famous Armenian medieval ecclesiastical and political figures lived and created in Noravank. Some of them were eventually buried here. Bishop Hovhannes is claimed to be the founder of Noravank. Due to outstanding clergyman, theologian, historian and key political and cultural figure Stepanos Orbelian, Noravank became a prominent spiritual, educational and cultural centre of the time. It was closely connected with Gladzor University and Tatev Monastery.

In 1238, the monastery was looted by Mongol invaders. Afterwards, it was rebuilt due to the efforts of Stepanos Orbelian. Thus, Noravank continued its prolific activities, and it flourished until the end of the 14th century – up to the invasions of Tamerlane.

Noravank complex comprises the church-mausoleum Surb Astvatsatsin (Arm. “Holy Mother of God”), also called Burtelashen (“Burtel’s construction”), the church of Saint Stephen (the Protomartyr), narthex, St. Grigor Chapel (the Orbelians’ family mausoleum-cemetery); the remains of medieval chapels and buildings, and the newly built Priory.

In Noravank, there are several caves of the Chalcolithic period (4200–3800 BC) – Mageli Cavern, Archeri (Arm. “Bears”) and Mozrov Caves, T’rchunneri (Arm. “Birds”) Grotto where recent excavation uncovered the evidence of local wine production. Noravank canyon flora is famous for its rare wild rose species (Lat.: **Rosa hemispherica**), berries and the wildlife. The canyon is the nesting area of many endangered birds (as well as the home to some species of bats on the verge of extinction). Here it is possible to come across one of the most valuable and endangered animals in Armenia – the Caucasian leopard (Lat.: **Panthera pardus saxicolor**). There are also volcanic mine layers in the canyon of Noravank. Dalik is an extinct volcano that, in the past, erupted during the earthquake and covered the ancient city of Moz. The clamours of suffer – “**vay, vay**” – of the survivors of that disaster offer one of the possible etymologies of the name of the region – Vayots Dzor (Arm.: “Lamenting Gorge”).

In 1286, Stepanos Orbelian invited from Cilicia to Vayots Dzor the outstanding medieval architect, sculptor, khachkar maker, and miniaturist Momik (1250–1339). Momik’s sculptures and khachkars were created and placed here to become a part of the complex of Noravank and Holy Mother of God Church (1321) in Areni. Momik’s khachkar - tombstone is also in Noravank. The complex of Noravank persistently suffered from assaults and earthquakes up to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The major reconstruction works initiated in the 1980s were completed in 2001.



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