

What documents do I need to travel outside of Canada?

All travelers are required to have a valid Canadian passport to travel outside of Canada. Canadian citizens can obtain passport application forms from www.ppt.gc.ca. Your passports should be up to date and have an expiry date that is a minimum of six months after the RETURN date of the trip. Please note it is the traveler's responsibility to obtain all necessary travel documents.

The school's Code of Conduct, the travel permission form and all other relevant documents are available online at: www.torontoarmenianchurch.com/saturday-school under the link "Pilgrimage to Armenia". Travelers and their parents must submit all signed documents to the school administration along with the final balance payment by April 30th. We recommend that you make two photocopies of your passport. Leave one copy at home with parents and place another copy inside your luggage. When in Armenia, the chaperons will collect your passport and place it in the hotel safe. Your passport will be returned to you upon departure.

Which name should I use?

When travelling outside of Canada, the name on your travel documents should match exactly to the name that is on your passport.

When do I get my travel documents?

Travel documents (including e-Ticket and any other relevant documents) are generally released four weeks prior to the departure. Any outstanding balance must be cleared before tickets can be released.

Are travel vaccinations required before departure?

Although there are no mandatory inoculations for those who travel to Armenia, however it is best to consult with your family physician. The Canadian Government often makes recommendations for vaccinations or immunizations. You can review travel advisories at www.voyage.gc.ca. In all cases, we encourage you to visit your physician several months before the departure date.

What should I pack for this trip?

You should plan to bring a carry-on bag with all important documents (a valid passport, airline ticket, insurance card), a day's worth of extra clothes, something to keep you entertained, like a book, crossword puzzles, a journal to take notes, etc. and remember no liquids over 100mL. For a complete list of items to pack please visit: www.torontoarmenianchurch.com/saturday-school under the link "Pilgrimage to Armenia".

Travelers should be aware of standard airline limitations of one suitcase of 20-25kg for each passenger. Travelers are responsible for the cost of excess weight or oversized baggage.

I can't go on my trip anymore. What do I do?

All cancellation requests must be given in writing and submitted to the school administration. **The initial deposit of \$750.00 is non-refundable. Within 90 days of the departure date, all monies received are non-refundable.**



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Frequently Asked
Questions
& Answers

What is the purpose of the Pilgrimage to Armenia?

With the support of Father Zareh Zargarian and the Board of Trustees, the first Pilgrimage to Armenia was organized in 1998 for Grade 8 graduates. The purpose of this unique program is to strengthen students' Armenian identity, to introduce them to their ancestral homeland, to motivate them to continue learning Armenian, and to give them the opportunity to build relationships with Armenians in Armenia.

Every year the graduates explore the beautiful landscape of Armenia by visiting historical sites, churches, monuments, museums, villages, as well as institutions, elementary schools and an orphanage.

Who can sign up for the Pilgrimage?

This educational travel program is designed for Grade 8 students upon their graduation from St. Sahag St. Mesrob Armenian Saturday School. It is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students to celebrate graduation with their friends while exploring our rich heritage and culture on home soil, Armenia. To be eligible, students must have attended St. Sahag St. Mesrob Armenian Saturday School and completed Grade 6, 7 and 8.

What does the trip package include?

The trip package includes round-trip transportation, airport/hotel transfers, 12 to 14-night accommodation, daily full breakfast, lunch and dinner, transportation service (comfortable air-conditioned buses) to all the sites as per the itinerary, entrance fee to the historical and cultural attractions, a basic medical insurance travel package, 24-hour staff on-site, daily activities and excursions and all applicable taxes and fees.

The package does not include personal spending money and any fees to damages caused to property. The trip is staffed by 2 or 3 designated chaperons of St. Sahag St. Mesrob Saturday School who travel with the group and are available on-site 24/7.

How do I sign up for this trip?

Simply visit: www.torontoarmenianchurch.com/saturday-school under the link "Pilgrimage to Armenia" for instructions. Payments are accepted through Debit and all major credit cards.

Can students still sign up after the deadline?

The initial deadline for signing up is on November 30th after which the administration group starts the arrangement process. As a result, it may not be possible for someone to sign up to the trip at a later date. The best way to reserve your spot is to sign up before the deadline!

Can parents join the trip with their son or daughter?

St. Sahag St. Mesrob Armenian Saturday School's Pilgrimage to Armenia is a program organized for students and provides an unforgettable experience for the group of classmates to celebrate milestones together while exploring their roots. The focus of the trip is for youth to experience the joy of travel in a safe and controlled environment with 24/7 staffing and support from their chaperons. If parents wish to travel during the same period as their son or daughter, they are welcome to make their own travel arrangements, independently from the group.

What is the cost of this trip?

The initial participation fee is estimated at \$3,300. This amount may be reduced through parents' fundraising activities. The total raised funds will then be equally

divided among all eligible participants and applied against their final balance.

How can parents raise funds for this trip?

Once the list of participating students is confirmed, parents are encouraged to discuss and plan fundraising events. All proposed events must be submitted to the School Council for approval. The approved events may start immediately in November and shall end on or before April 15th.

What's the payment schedule for the trip?

The initial deposit of \$750 is due by **November 30th** of the academic year. This balance reserves your spot in the program. The second payment of \$750 is due on **February 1st**, with the remaining balance (after applying the raised funds, if any) due by **April 30th**.

What if someone misses a payment?

If a payment is missed with no explanations, the trip is no longer guaranteed for the student. All required payments must be made as scheduled in order to have a guaranteed reservation.

Do I need to purchase travel insurance?

All travelers receive the basic travel insurance included in their trip package to cover any on-site medical emergencies, AD&D, loss of baggage and trip interruption.

When will I learn about my exact travel dates?

Once we confirm the final size of the group, we work with the Airline & Hotel partners to coordinate space. The departure date will be communicated to you upon completion of all travel arrangements.