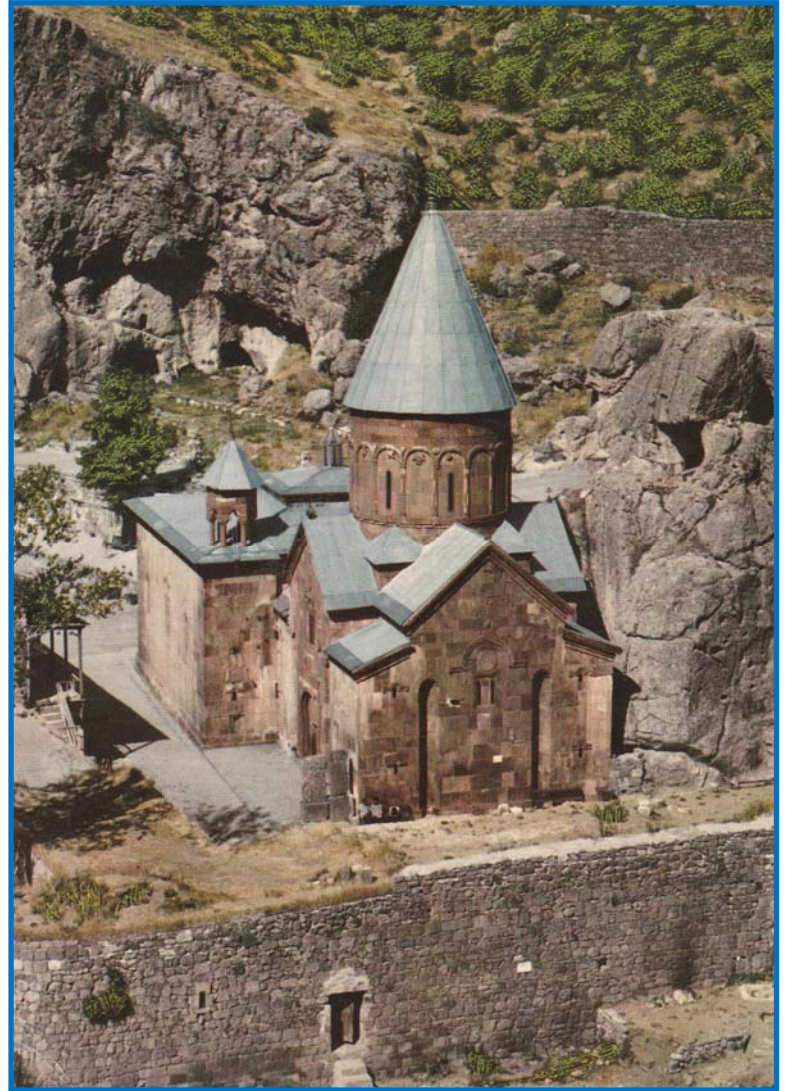




UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN ARMENIA

In 1972 many countries signed the UNESCO World Heritage Convention per which each country can nominate sites of utmost cultural or natural heritage on their territories and apply for UNESCO designation as a World Heritage Site.

Armenia succeeded the convention in 1993 following the breakup of the Soviet Union. Currently Armenia has three sites on the list with additional four on the tentative list.



The first site listed was the Haghpat Monastery, in 1996. Later, in 2000 the site was extended to include Sanahin Monastery, both built around 976 AD.



Above and right: In the same year 2000 the list was extended to include Geghard Monastery (960 AD) and Upper Azat River Valley. One of the most treasured artifacts, the Holy Lance was kept in the monastery until transfer to Etchmiadzin Cathedral.



In 2000 another group of monuments was added to the list, to include Etchmiadzin Mother Cathedral (301-303 AD) and surrounding churches St. Hripsime (618 AD) and St. Gayane (630 AD), as well as ruins of Zvartnots (642 AD).