

## Meghri, Armenia





## ZORATS QARER (QARAHUNJ) (Armenian Stonehenge)

Zorats Qarer is in the spotlight of the tourists conditioned by its high historic-cultural value and easy-to-reach geographical position. Having a unique structure in its kind, it has not fully studied yet. The monument is a complex of hundreds of vertically fixed stones covering more than three hectares area. It is 1770 meters above sea level.

The all stones of the monument are of basalt and on some of them there are hauls. The Zorats Qarer is an ancient observatory designed for the observation of terrestrial bodies and time setting and the hauls on stones are designed to more precisely observe these terrestrial bodies from different poses. The Zorats Qarer has been juxtaposed with the English Stonehenge which is considered as Sun worshipping centers and observatories. Based on archeological data the archeologists suppose the Zorats Qarer had built in 3-2 millennium BC during the transitional stage from the early Bronze to the Medium Bronze period and survived till the middle of the 1st millennium. Some astrologists, based on new facts, suppose that it is 6000 or 8000 years old.



## NORAVANK MONASTERY



Noravank is a 13th century Armenian Apostolic Church monastery, located in a narrow gorge. The gorge is known for its tall, sheer, brick-red cliffs, directly across from the monastery. The monastery is best known for its two-storey St. Astvatsatsin and St. Karapet churches. In the 13th-14th centuries the monastery became a residence of Syunik's bishops and, consequently. a major religious and, later, cultural center of Armenia closely connected with many of the local seats of learning, especially with Gladzor's famed university and library. Noravank was founded in 1205 by Bishop Hovhannes, the former Abbot of Vahanavank.





























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