



Land and Culture Organisation 2010 Project – Fact Sheet

Tchitchkhanavank in the village Shirakamut in Armenia:

The village of Shirakamut is the former Nalband, epicentre of the 1988 earthquake which substantially affected the Spitak region. LCO has been present in the region for many years where it has undertaken several successful programs.

The actual village of Shirakamut was founded in the 19th Century when the primitive village was larger and extended towards the ruined church of Tchitchkhanavank, nowadays called “Hin Jam” “The old Church”. A larger church had been built in the actual village of Shirakamut but was destroyed by the earthquake. For this reason and in order to fill a void in the village, LCO decided to restore the old Church of Shirakamut.

Tchitchkhanavank was built on the plan of a Christian cross with one entrance located on the side of the Church. This architecture is typical to the 6th and 7th Centuries. The Church was partially destroyed by an earthquake in 1926 with the roof being subsequently restored. However, the Church was again destroyed by the 1988 earthquake. During the Soviet era the north and east sides of the building were buried, resulting in the ancient graveyard to also be buried.

In 2008, LCO started the archaeological searches and excavations of the Church. This revealed the Church's foundations, together with ancient tomb stones and objects of archaeological interest. A couple of inscriptions in Armenian and Arabic were also found. In order to get a better understanding of the Church site the excavations continued in 2009.





What are the dates of the 2010 campaigns?

- **2 August 2010 to 23 August 2010**
- **2 August 2010 to 30 August 2010**

What kind of work will be involved?

In 2010, LCO will work on re-directing the stream of water, currently found alongside the Church, towards the south of the Church. We will also study the findings of the excavations; undertake the reading and planning of the site and start working on the construction of its foundation walls.

Is there anything else I should know?

The availabilities for this programme are limited to 8 volunteers worldwide so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Please contact the LCO Team for further info on accommodation, flights and campaign fees. Please also visit our website: www.landandculture.co.uk

