

# International Lichenological Excursion to Armenia

15-24 June 2015, Armenia

In the frame of the "OPTIMA Iter Lichenologicum" initiative, the Young Biologists Association NGO ([www.yba.am](http://www.yba.am)) and Organization for the Phyto-Taxonomic Investigation of the Mediterranean Area (OPTIMA) organize an international lichenological excursion to Armenia. The aim is to study the lichen diversity of the Khosrov Forest State Reserve and other areas in Armenia. The participants could be experienced lichenologists as well as amateurs. It will be possible to export from Armenia the collected material for further identification and laboratory studies. As a result of the excursion, a joint paper in *Flora Mediterranea* will be published. The participants will also visit other important cultural and natural sites of the Country.

The organisers gratefully acknowledge the support of the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia, Caucasus Nature Fund (CNF-Armenia) and the Ecotour Travel Agency ([www.ecotour.am](http://www.ecotour.am)).

More information about: ["Khosrov Forest" State Reserve](#)

## Excursion programme

**Day 1:** Arrival, City tour, Welcome dinner

**Day 2:** Field trip to of Khosrov Forest State Reserve

**Day 3:** Field trip to of Khosrov Forest State Reserve

**Day 4:** Field trip to of Khosrov Forest State Reserve

**Day 5:** Visit to Khor Virap Monastery, Areni wine tasting, wild watching of Bezoar Goats in the village Shatin. Visit to Areni-1 Cave Complex, a treasure trove of Copper Age (5000 - 4000 BCE) artefacts including the oldest shoe, brain, and winery in the world.

**Day 6:** Visit to Zorats Qarar (Armenian Stonehenge) and Tatev Monastery (through Tatever- the longest funicular in the world).

**Day 7:** Field trip to mountain Aragats

**Day 8:** Field trip to mountain Aragats

**Day 9:** Visit to "Sevan" National Park (Sevan Lake) and "Dilijan" National Park

**Day 10:** Departure

## Registration

The maximum number of participants is 15. The deadline for registration is **March 1, 2015**. For participation of accompanying persons, please contact the organizers via e-mail: [arsen@yba.am](mailto:arsen@yba.am)

For registration please follow the link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1bf4SmTZTozQUZuyt4vczlh5GCsbHKJfe7-WCyfvga4o/viewform>

### **Registration fee**

The Registration fee (accommodation in single room) is 1000 EUR

In case of accommodation in double room the registration fee is 850 EUR. The accommodation in double room is possible in case of willingness of two participants to stay together.

The fee includes:

Airport pick up

Local transportation during all the duration of the tour

An English speaking professional guide for cultural tours

Accommodation in the hotel

Three meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) during the tour. plus hot tea/coffee

The fee excludes:

International airfare

Entrance Visum (For EU citizens there is no Visum)

Travel insurance

### **Payment**

The payment should be made **ONLY** after confirmation of acceptance by the organisers. The transfer of the participation fee is possible via bank international transfer. **Please note** that the participation should not include any transfer fee by the intermediary and recipient banks. Please transfer the participation fee to the following bank account:

Beneficiary bank: CJSC INECOBANK, Yerevan, Armenia

Swift code: INJSAM22

Beneficiary's account: 20050022370921040

Beneficiary name: Ecotour LLC

### **Cancellation policy**

The registration fee will be fully refunded till March 30, 2015 based on a written request of cancellation. Partial refund (50% of registration fee) is possible till May 1, 2015. Later requests will not be considered.

### **Grants for Young Lichenologists**

Two grants of 300 EUR will be provided by OPTIMA to support the participation of young lichenologists.

#### *Eligibility*

PhD students, Postdoctoral and young researchers are eligible to apply for support.

### *Application*

Please fill out the application form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1eT7\\_liesSdotgzTf4uf8d6pMA-nezIKVOXM8YdLFodo/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1eT7_liesSdotgzTf4uf8d6pMA-nezIKVOXM8YdLFodo/viewform)

### **Inquiries**

For inquiries don't hesitate to contact us via e-mail: [arsen@yba.am](mailto:arsen@yba.am)