**International Lichenological Excursion to Armenia**

15-24 June 2015, Armenia

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

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

More information about:[**"Khosrov Forest" State Reserve**](https://www.google.am/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CCwQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FKhosrov_State_Reserve&ei=yJDvU-rQNKbXyQPXv4LgDg&usg=AFQjCNGHHodWR5p0Bhe6y92MN1i8dzud9w)

**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 village Shatin. Considering visit to Areni-1 Cave Complex has proven to be a treasure trove of Copper Age (5000 - 4000 BCE) artefacts including the oldest shoe, brain, and winery in the world.

**Day 6:** Visit toZorats Qarer (Armenian Stonehenge), 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 number of participants is up to 15 people. The deadline for registration is **March 1, 2015.** For participation of accompanying persons, please contact organizers via e-mail: 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 the all duration of the tour
An English speaking professional guide for cultural tours
Accommodation in the hotel
Three meals including lunch, dinner, and breakfast during the tour with hot tea/coffee

The fee excludes:

International airfare
Entrance Visa (For EU citizens there is no VISA)
Travel insurance

**Payment**

The payment should be made **ONLY** after confirmation of acceptance for excursion. The transfer of 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

**Cancelation policy**

The registration fee will be fully refunded till March 30, 2015 based on written requests of cancellation and partly refund (50% of registration fee) is possible till May 1, 2015. The later inquiries will not be considered.

**The Grants for Young Lichenologists**

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

*Eligibility*

The 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-nezIKV0XM8YdLFodo/viewform

**Inquiries**

For inquiries don't hesitate to contact us via e-mail: arsen@yba.am