AHME-2

Social Events

Pre-Conference Tour:

05.10.2025, Sunday, 09:00-13:00 **Yerevan City tour** (Ararat Brandy (Cognac) Factory, Matenadaran, etc.), 13:00-15:00 lunch break and 15:00-19:00 **Excursion to Garni Temple and Geghard Monastery**. Matenadaran is a museum of ancient manuscripts, the first in the world in its kind. Garni Temple was founded in the 2nd century B.C. and was dedicated to the god of sun Mithra. Geghard Monastery is a medieval monastery being partially carved out of the adjacent mountain, surrounded by cliffs. It is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site with enhanced protection status.

Transportation and guides are provided.

Costs per participant: Yerevan City tour – EUR 35, lunch – EUR 20, Garni and Geghard – EUR 35. The participants can choose one, two or all three of these options. The prices include entrance fees. For booking all 3 options, a discount will apply (EUR 70 for all 3).

08.10.2025, Wednesday, 12:00-23:00 **Byurakan Fest 2025**. A science and culture festival will be held on the whole territory of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO), where many famous scientists, writers, composers, artists, and others are invited, as well as ambassadors of foreign countries is Armenia and representatives of international organizations.

Includes tours at BAO (Viktor Ambartsumian house-museum, 1m Schmidt-type and 2.6m classical telescopes, UNESCO centre, Planetarium, evening observations with small telescopes), drinks and meals, entertainment, meetings, master classes of music, dances, peinture, sculpture, etc.

Transportation and guides for all tours are provided.

Cost per participant – EUR 70.

09.10.2025, Thursday,19:00-23:00 **Banquet (Conference Dinner)** in a national style Armenian restaurant, most probably.
Transportation, three course meals, drinks, national music and dances are included.
Cost per participant – EUR 60.

Post-Conference Tour:
11.10.2025, Wednesday, 09:00-22:00 **Zorats Karer (Karahunge)** and **Noravank Monastery complex**, with lunch (approx. at 13:00-14:00) and dinner (approx. at 19:00-20:00). The most fascinating Armenian historical astronomical building is Karahunge (the "Armenian Stonehenge", the name derives from kar "stone" and may mean "singing stones"; and the other famous name is Zorats Karer). It is a megalithic assemblage, 200 km from Yerevan, and 3 km from the town Sisian; at an altitude of 1770 m. It is an assemblage of many stones put in a circle and a few arms starting from it. As many other such buildings, Karahunge was thought to be a religious assemblage. However, only in the middle of 1980th, Karahunge was first interpreted as an archaeoastronomical monument and was studied by Prof. E.S. Parsamian and Prof. P. M. Herouni. Estimations give at least from 7700 years for the age of Karahunge.
Transportation and a professional guide (an archaeoastronomer) are provided.
Cost per participant – EUR 100 (including lunch and dinner).

Please send an e-mail to LOC before September 20 about your preferred social events. For AHME-2 social events, **all payments** should be done at the registration desk in cash on the first day of the meeting, October 6.