



IAC
2023
BAKU

74th INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL CONGRESS



2-6 October 2023
Baku, Azerbaijan

Global Challenges & Opportunities: Give Space a Chance

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IAC 2023

Back to Baku after 50 Years

The premier event of the global space industry, the International Astronautical Congress brings together the leading space players from around the world and offers a perfect opportunity to join a vast network of like-minded people.

Held annually, the IAC is the epicentre of the latest developments and achievements in the sphere of space, the forge of the vision for the future of the industry, and the hub where the most prominent players across the industry get together to conjointly reflect on the accomplishments and pave the way forward.

Every year, high-level officials, executives and delegation members of global space agencies and institutions, researchers, scientists, engineers, academics, industry experts and innovators, young professionals and students, entrepreneurs and start-up community, global press and media representatives attend the IAC to be a part of this grandiose event.

In 2023, the IAC is back to Baku exactly half a century after the capital of Azerbaijan hosted it for the first time in 1973, becoming the first and the only city in the region to do so. The 74th edition of IAC is coupled with unique exposure to an emerging market, first-hand experience of the unmatched Azerbaijani hospitality, genuine cultural immersion, and the diverse charms of this beautiful country.

The IAC 2023 will extend unequalled prospects for establishing strong collaborations, and will serve as a perfect occasion to reach a diverse international audience through one-of-a-kind exposure both within the region and internationally. Offering access to an emerging market and unique opportunities for networking, Azerbaijan is dedicated to delivering the best IAC experience for the visitors.



Venue

The Baku Convention Complex, the dedicated venue of the IAC 2023, comprises the futuristic Baku Convention Centre, the magnificent Heydar Aliyev Centre designed by prominent architect Zaha Hadid, and the Exhibition Pavilion assembled specifically for this event, all within short walking distance from one another. The Complex has a vast experience of hosting large-scale international events and is one of the most popular landmarks of Baku, inspiring thousands of locals and tourists alike.

Located just a 15-minute drive from the Heydar Aliyev International Airport, the Complex is surrounded by a lively green park, and is easily accessible by all means of transportation thanks to ideal infrastructure.

Exhibition Pavilion

A dedicated Pavilion to be assembled right between the Heydar Aliyev Centre and Baku Convention Centre, this construction will host the IAC exhibition on 2-6 October.

Baku Convention Centre



Highlighting the contemporary architecture of Azerbaijan's capital, the Centre reminds of a spacecraft that mysteriously landed in the centre of Baku. This astonishing building is the Baku Convention Centre, a dedicated venue for major congresses, conferences, and business events with an area of 46,000m². Multifunctional and spacious, it boasts excellent infrastructure and inventory, flexible rooms, large multi-purpose auditorium, and smart and elegant design.

Heydar Aliyev Centre

The crown jewel of Baku's modern skyline, the Heydar Aliyev Centre was designed by famous architect Zaha Hadid without a single straight line in its design. One of the city's most iconic landmarks, the Centre fascinates its visitors with its curved architectural style that reflects a portrayal of an eternal cycle between the past and the future that is represented by the lines of this masterpiece. Named the Design of the Year by London's Design Museum in 2014, the Heydar Aliyev Centre will welcome the guests and participants of the IAC for a variety of sessions and events in its auditorium, multifunctional halls, and meeting rooms.



Welcome to Baku

Baku is proud to host the International Astronautical Congress for the second time in history. Visiting Baku for the IAC, you will, beyond doubt, be inspired and left in awe by the many opportunities this unique city full of contrasts has to offer.

A modern and buzzing cosmopolitan city criss-crossed by historic monuments and ancient heritage sites, Baku is at the heart of Azerbaijan's cauldron that harmoniously blends the charms of the East and the West. In 2023, the IAC experience is complemented by genuine cultural immersion, spectacular scenery, UNESCO World Heritage sites, and, certainly, the unrivalled hospitality of Azerbaijani people.

History buffs, culture and arts enthusiasts, nature lovers, gastronomy aficionados - everyone will find something that suits their interest in stunning Baku. Coming for the IAC, you will have a chance to stroll along narrow streets of a medieval town, explore pearls of contemporary architecture, enjoy the majestic sea views savouring delicious Azerbaijani cuisine, admire the sophistication of carpet-weaving traditions, and much more. Lots of lasting memories and impressions are guaranteed! A city of both the past and the future, Baku is famously known for being an energetic, spirited, exhilarating capital reflecting the values of integrity, inclusivity, sustainability, and multiculturalism in its daily life. Come for the International Astronautical Congress and discover the many spectacular facets of Baku!



Flights



Explore special
flight offers

Easily accessible from all over the world, Baku is a focal point of the region, with over 218 flights per week connecting your next IAC destination with more than 36 cities across the globe. With Azerbaijan Airlines and Turkish Airlines as official Airline Partners of the IAC 2023 and numerous discounted flight offers from a variety of airlines for registered delegates, you will certainly have a delightful journey to Azerbaijan.

A large, modern airport terminal building with a curved, glass facade. The building is reflected in the sky. In the foreground, there is a large, white, 3D sign that reads "HEYDAR ALIYEV AIRPORT". The sign is set against a background of green bushes and a clear blue sky. A road with a white arrow pointing right is visible in the lower left corner. A few people can be seen walking near the entrance of the terminal.

HEYDAR
ALIYEV
AIRPORT

Accommodation

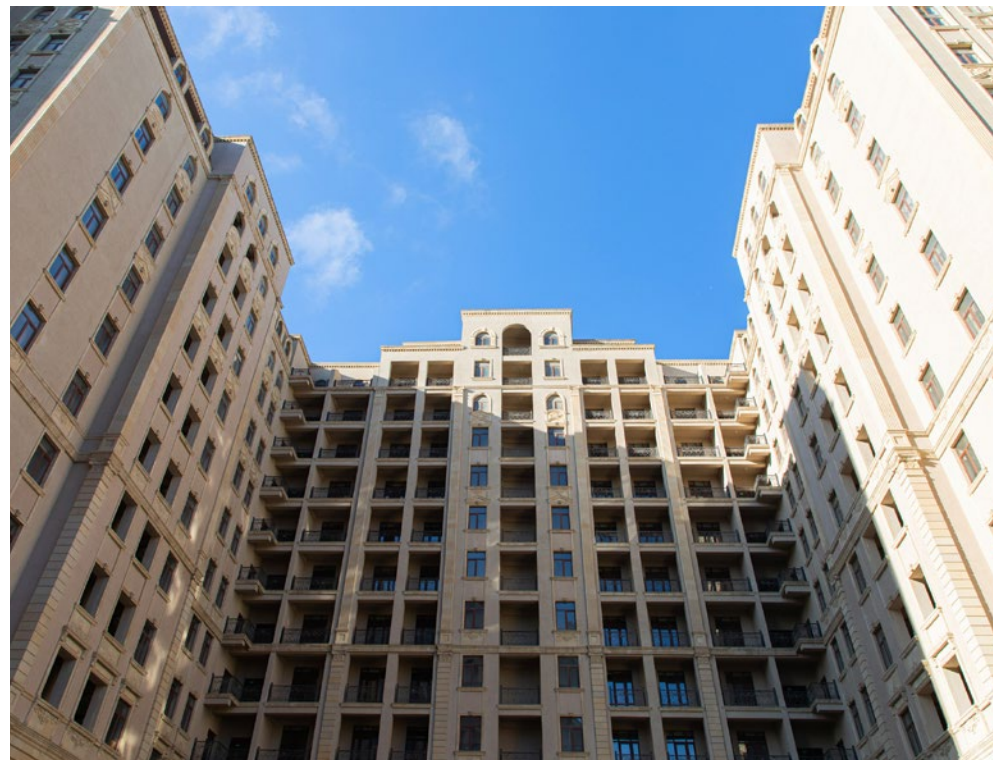


Benefit from discounts tailored for you

With great offers we have prepared for you to enjoy during the Congress dates, 43 hotels are available on our partner platform. From luxurious 5-star hotels and stylish boutique hotels to mid- and low-budget accommodation facilities, you will have plenty of choice for an impeccable stay in Baku.



74th INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL CONGRESS



Youth Accommodation



Enjoy this unique offer

Great news for the students and young professionals aged between 18 and 35 registering for the IAC 2023! We offer a unique opportunity to enjoy an extraordinary accommodation option with special rates and a great location within just 10-minute drive from the Congress Venue. Available at a special price of just 29 euro per night, Youth Accommodation is available for more than 1,000 applicants – so, hurry up to reserve your spot as this offer is accessible on a first come first serve basis!

Tours

The participants and guests of the 74th IAC will be offered an extensive engaging program that includes familiarization trips and visits to some of the most prominent attractions.



Technical Tours

[Book here](#)



National Aviation Academy

The National Aviation Academy of the Azerbaijan Airlines (AZAL) established in 1992 is a higher education institution that prepares highly-qualified specialists pursuing their careers in the aerospace, civil aviation and a number of other relevant areas. During the tour, you will have a chance to visit the National Aviation Academy and the Azerbaijan Civil Aviation Museum operating under the Academy, as well as the AZAL Flight Simulator Training Center.

Main Satellite Ground Control Station of Azercosmos

The heart of Azerbaijan's satellite operations, the Main Satellite Ground Control Station of the IAC 2023 host was opened in 2013 and coincided with the launch of the first satellite of Azerbaijan – Azerspace-1. The tour will take you into the very peculiarities of the Station's daily activities and get you acquainted with how Azerbaijan's space ecosystem works at its epicenter.





Social Tours

[Book here](#)



Old City Walking Tour

This tour will take you into the cultural center and heart of Baku. A UNESCO World Heritage site, the Old City is filled with monuments dating back to the 6th-12th centuries and medieval times. Strolling through the narrow cobbled streets, be sure to ponder the Palace of the Shirvanshahs and the mysterious Maiden Tower!

Old City Gastronomic Tour

Azerbaijani cuisine is a spectacular fusion of flavors whisked together by the different peoples and cultures that once travelled along the Great Silk Road. At this tour, you will learn how to turn timeless local recipes into tasty treats at culinary masterclasses, featuring some of the most delicious dishes in Baku.



74th INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL CONGRESS

Caviar-Tasting & Carpet-weaving Experience

Black caviar is a highly prized and expensive local delicacy produced sustainably at local fish farms. This experience will be an amazing opportunity to enjoy luxurious caviar coupled with traditional carpet-weaving masterclass in an ambience of Azerbaijani carpets collection.



Oil Boom in Baku Tour

Join this tour to observe the architectural influence of the rapid development of the oil industry in Baku that spanned from the early 1870s to the WWI. Bringing great wealth to the city, this period triggered the construction of an eclectic mix of European architecture outside the old medieval walls, dubbing the city 'Paris of the Caucasus'.



Traditional Handicraft Masterclass

This tour to the Centre for Traditional Arts located at the heart of the Old City will indulge you in the peculiarities of Azerbaijani craftsmanship, such as the art of silk wood stamping, clay pot making, ceramic painting, and much more.

Ancient Gobustan & Mud Volcanoes Tour

Take a step farther back in history in another UNESCO World Heritage site – Gobustan. Home to almost 6,000 petroglyphs that date back as far as 40,000 years ago, this open-air museum is surrounded by the Caspian Sea to one side, and the world's highest concentration of mud volcanoes all around with a Moon-like landscape.



Fire-worshipping Heritage Tour

At a village located a short drive from the center of Baku, there is the burning mountain – Yanardag where the base of the hillside is still marked by enduring flames. Another stop of the tour is the Ateshgah Fire Temple, built by Zoroastrians and destroyed in the 18th century, then rebuilt by Hindus and turned into an open-air museum.



Wine Tasting Tour

Thanks to Azerbaijan's geographical location, winemaking has always been a distinguished part of the national culture. During this tour, you will have a chance to grab a glass (or more), and venture on a journey with wine introducing you to Azerbaijan, its vibrancy and its viniculture.

What to Do in Baku

Starting from your arrival at the state-of-the-art Heydar Aliyev International Airport in Baku certified with the 5-Star Regional Airport Rating by Skytrax, you will get the best travel experience and enjoy your stay in the capital of Azerbaijan. UNESCO World Heritage Sites, ancient palaces, pearls of contemporary architecture, stunning sceneries, delectable cuisine, and hospitable people are some things that await here.

Of 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites located in Azerbaijan, 2 are in Baku. While the Old City is one of these internationally recognized and protected sights, the other is the Gobustan State Reserve located around 40-min ride from Baku, inviting its visitors to witness an outstanding collection of more than 6,000 rock engravings dating back to 40,000 years ago.

Baku is a unique mix of antiquity and modernity, with medieval houses, classic architecture, and contemporary styles blending harmoniously. It is a city where landmarks dating back to the 12th century, Gothic, baroque, neoclassical and art nouveau architecture of the oil boom of the early 20th century, and jaw-dropping modern skyline complement one another. From the Icherisheher to the Palace of Happiness, from the Ateshgah Temple to the Heydar Aliyev Centre, everything here is a harmony of diversity.

Visit the Carpet Museum for the world's largest collection of Azerbaijani carpets, walk along the Boulevard to take a breath of the fresh sea air, discover the city centre strolling through the Nizami street and the Fountains Square, admire the spectacular views of the Boulevard, the Baku Bay, the iconic Flame Towers and the entire downtown area from the Highland Park, and enjoy endless opportunities for shopping, nightlife, entertainment, and wellness.



What to Try in Baku

Baku offers a variety of dining experiences, including local Azerbaijani cafes in the Old City serving mouth-watering Azerbaijani dishes to the sounds of mugham, international restaurant chains, and high-end venues offering Western, Pan-Asian, and Middle Eastern cuisine. Undoubtedly, Baku is home to the country's best and most elegant restaurants, cafes, bars, and lounges.

When in Azerbaijan, do not miss the chance to try the Azerbaijani cuisine, which presents an exceptional fusion of flavors shaped by the unique geography, climate, and the many cultures that influenced the country throughout centuries. Dozens of types of plov (pilaf), dolma filled with juicy mutton wrapped in grape leaves, qutabs stuffed with various fillings, an infinite number of types of kebabs, and much more await you in Azerbaijan.

Make sure to experience the Azerbaijani tea-drinking ceremony, and unwind sipping hot tea served in special "armudu" glasses along with a variety of jams and sweets. Among the most popular are pakhlava that symbolizes the stars in the sky, and shekerbura, which symbolizes the Moon.

For wine aficionados, Azerbaijan is an ideal destination as well – with its ancient wine heritage dating back many centuries, Azerbaijan's wine industry is on the rise today, producing rich, pleasant wines from both internationally renowned and indigenous grapes.



About Azercosmos

Azercosmos, Space Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, is the leading force behind the development of innovative space ecosystem in Azerbaijan. Founded in 2010 as the first and only satellite operator in the Caucasus region, Azercosmos currently operates two telecommunication (Azerspace-1 and Azerspace-2) and one Earth Observation (Azersky) satellites, successfully providing high quality and reliable services to partners across the globe.

Apart from delivering a broad spectrum of services and solutions via its satellite fleet, Azercosmos also engages in a wide range of R&D activities that aim to foster the technological advancement, cooperates with international stakeholders and partners to ensure the establishment and strengthening of collaborative ties in the space industry, participates in major global projects, and builds the local know-how. Being committed to creating a better connected, developed and secure world for future generations, Azercosmos aims to emerge as one of the driving forces in the global space industry.



Space in Azerbaijan

Upholding the Legacy, Shaping the Future



Innovation and aspiration to explore and harness the power of knowledge for the benefit of the world have always been a cross-cutting theme throughout Azerbaijan's space history spanning centuries. The foundation of space exploration in Azerbaijan was laid centuries ago, with people looking up into the sky in pursuit of discovering what the universe has stored away. Let us take a journey down the memory lane and reflect on the main milestones of the emergence and establishment of space industry in Azerbaijan.



1259

The Maragha Observatory, a widely recognized regional scientific hub of the time, was established by Nasraddin Tusi, a prominent Azerbaijani astronomer, scientist, and thinker. He was at the origins of space activities in Azerbaijan by making an immense contribution to the scientific exploration of space through his prolific research in the fields of astronomy and physics.

1959

Named after Tusi, the Shamakhi Astrophysical Observatory, established in 1959, follows through on the significant work in space research and helps to investigate the solar system bodies, study the solar and stellar physics, and solar-terrestrial relations.



1966

Karim Karimov, the Azerbaijani mastermind behind the Soviet Space Program, was appointed as the Chairman of the State Commission on Piloted Flights that he headed for 25 years.



1973

A milestone year for Azerbaijan's space industry as the 24th International Astronautical Congress under the theme "Space Research: Influence on Science and Technology" was held in Baku, the only city in the region that hosted this prominent event. The event left fundamental legacy for the space industry of Azerbaijan as over succeeding years, space research was highly prioritized and Azerbaijani scientists and engineers were actively involved in the space program of the USSR.



2013

Azerspace-1 telecommunication satellite – the first-ever satellite of Azerbaijan – was successfully launched into the orbit.

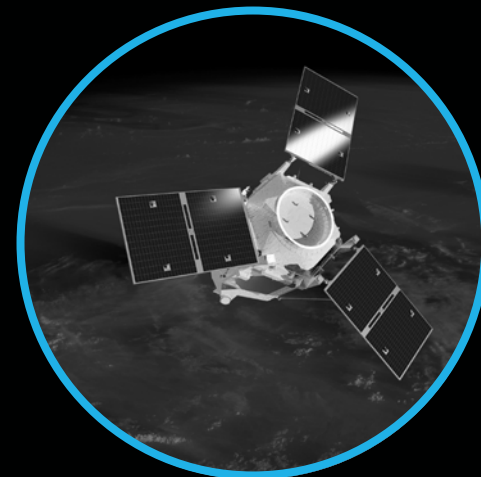
1987

Musa Manarov, an Azerbaijani astronaut and space engineer born in Baku in 1951, flew into space aboard Soyuz TM-4 crewed spaceship as a flight engineer. Later, in 1990, he participated in his second space mission on Soyuz TM-11.



2014

Azersky Earth observation satellite was successfully launched into the orbit.



2010

Azercosmos, Space Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, was founded as the first and only satellite operator in the Caucasus region, becoming the main leading force behind the development of innovative space ecosystem in Azerbaijan.



2018

Azerspace-2 telecommunication satellite was successfully launched into the orbit.

Looking forward to welcoming you!

74th INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL CONGRESS

Azerbaijan is taking gradual steps towards becoming one of the leading players on the global space arena, expressing its commitment to creating a better connected, developed, and secure world for future generations. The IAC 2023 is a perfect example of demonstrated allegiance and dedication of Azerbaijan to the common cause of exploring the space together and tackling the global challenges with the help of the space and the boundless knowledge it equips us with. Do not miss this one-of-a-kind opportunity and become a part of the celebration of space in Baku!





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