

Ships that fly and iconic railway station architecture on Lake Constance – The Zeppelin Museum Friedrichshafen

Annual General Meeting with supporting programme on Saturday, 7 March 2026

Dear members of our society

As you know, on our AGM excursions we like to look beyond our own passion and turn our attention to topics outside the realm of rail transport. We have already explored a wide variety of modes of transport – including ships, although we stayed on the water. However, airships are still missing from our portfolio, so at the 21st Annual General Meeting we want to turn our attention to zeppelins, a means of transport that fascinated people at the beginning of the 20th century until the tragic crash of the ‘Hindenburg’ on 6 May 1937 in Lakehurst, USA. The Zeppelin Museum, which opened in 1996 in the former Friedrichshafen harbour railway station, made the world’s largest collection on the history and technology of airship travel accessible to the public. The fact that the museum is located in a former railway station building makes this year’s AGM location even more fitting.

We will meet on the ferry to Friedrichshafen in Romanshorn. As early as 1869, the Swiss North-East Railway Company (NOB) began operating a ferry service for transporting freight wagons across Lake Constance between Romanshorn in Switzerland and Friedrichshafen in Germany. As is well known, the NOB became the property of Swiss Federal Railways (SBB) in 1902, making SBB a shipping company as well. As early as 1929, the motor ferry Schussen was the first combined railway and car ferry to go into operation. After a long interruption due to the war, ferry service was discontinued in 1974 and the extensive track facilities on both sides of the lake were later dismantled. The ferry landing stages on both sides of the lake and, on the Swiss side, the warehouses have been preserved to this day. In 1996, the SBB withdrew from shipping operations and sold the ferry line to the Swiss Lake Constance Shipping Company (SBS).

After the ship arrives in Friedrichshafen, we head to the Zeppelin Museum in the former reception building of the harbour station. The station building, built in the early 1930s by Karl Hagenmeyer in the classical modernist style, was rebuilt in its original form after being destroyed during the war and remained in operation in its original function until 1988. After being sold to the city, it was converted into the Zeppelin Museum between 1993 and 1996. The station buffet, with its panoramic view of the lake and the Swiss Pre-Alps, remained in operation as a restaurant. So what could be more fitting for our lunch than today’s museum restaurant?

But first, the highlight of the day awaits our group in the form of a promising guided tour of the museum. During the guided tour, we will embark on a journey back in time to 1936, the era of the Zeppelins. The highlight will be the walk-in, true-to-life partial reconstruction of part of the passenger compartments of the legendary LZ 129 ‘Hindenburg’, where we will enter the wonderful lounges and cabins via the so-called gangway and experience the history of airship travel up close. We will learn how long an ordinary worker would theoretically have had to save to afford a trip on the luxury liner of the skies and how long a crossing to America took. Another focus of the tour is airships in the context of national and international technological and cultural history. For those who want to get to know the museum even better, there will be plenty of time for an individual tour after the statutory part, again in the museum.

After the tour, we will go to the panoramic restaurant on the upper floor of the former harbour station. We will enjoy the fine cuisine of the Swabian Alb and a unique view of the harbour and lake through the large window façade.

After the meal, the statutory part of the programme will continue with the general meeting, again at the Zeppelin Museum. Apart from the items on the agenda provided for in the statutes, no further resolutions are planned. The museum reception will inform guests arriving later about the relevant room booking. This will mark the end of what is sure to be a very exciting excursion, and our guests will make their own way home. Ferry connections to Friedrichshafen or catamaran boats to Constance are available for this purpose, the former being part of the Swiss fare network.

Programme

Meeting point at car ferry route FAE 3810, a replacement passenger ship is expected to be in service.

09:22 Departure of replacement car ferry, there is a group reservation on board.

10:30 Guided tour of the Zeppelin Museum in Friedrichshafen

12:15 Lunch for registered participants in the museum restaurant

14:00 Start of the 21st Ordinary General Meeting of SGEG

approx. 3:15 p.m. End of the event

Costs

CHF 42.00 includes admission, guided tour, room hire and organisation
(Please note: Travel costs, including ferry, are not included in the price. Swiss fare regulations apply on the ferry, including the validity of GA and Half-Fare travelcards).

CHF 40.00 Lunch without drinks. Please transfer the additional amount if required.

Potato soup with herbs

Juicy beef roulades

Braised red cabbage and potato herb patties with spicy onion sauce

Panna cotta with berry ragout and crumble

Registration

By transferring the total amount to account CH35 0070 0114 8083 3256 4 in the name of our company. The registration deadline is 25 February 2026. Registration is mandatory for participation in the supporting programme, but is not required for attendance at the General Meeting only. No confirmations will be sent out. Please note the binding registration deadline.

We look forward to an exciting day and thank you for your interest!

Your SGEG Board

Christian Ammann, Roger Bennet, Urs G. Berger, Werner Hardmeier, Edi Meier, Johannes Weibel

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