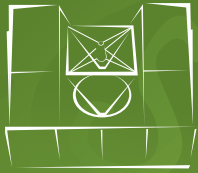




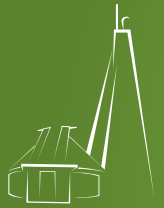
Apache Point Observatory
www.apo.nmsu.edu
505-437-6822

2001 Apache Point Road
P.O. Box 59
Sunsport, NM 88349-0059



Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory
cfa-www.harvard.edu/flwo/
520-670-5707

P.O. Box 6369
Amado, AZ 85645



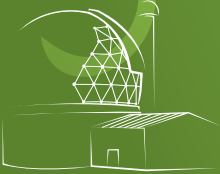
National Solar Observatory
nsosp.nso.edu
505-434-7190

P.O. Box 62
Sunsport, NM 88349



National Radio Astronomy Observatory
www.vla.nrao.edu
505-835-7410

1003 Lopezville Road
Socorro, NM 87801



McDonald Observatory
mcdonaldobservatory.org
(toll free recorded message)
877-984-7827
or main number 432-426-3640

The University of Texas
McDonald Observatory
HC 75 Box 1337 MCD
Fort Davis, Texas 79734-5020



Kitt Peak National Observatory
www.noao.edu
520-318-8732

950 N. Cherry Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85719

SCOPE

Southwestern Consortium of Observatories for Public Education

We are Southwestern Research Observatories working together to inspire public awareness of astronomy through access and education.



map not to scale

Observatories of the Southwest

Interstate 10 is the Highway to the Stars. Almost all of the largest optical telescopes in the continental United States, as well as the world's most powerful radio telescope, lie within two or three hours of the highway.

The optical telescopes all stand on mountaintops, which provide clear views of the sky. These remote outposts also offer spectacular views of both Earth and sky for the hundreds of thousands of visitors who drop in each year.

All of the major southwestern observatories offer special programs for visitors, including museums, tours, and star parties. Each is worth a side trip from the Interstate.

For more information see:
www.as.utexas.edu/mcdonald/scope/scope.html

Visit the Observatories of the Southwest



SCOPE

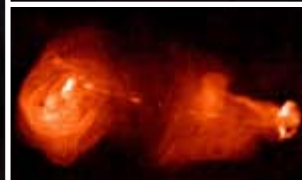
Southwestern Consortium of Observatories for Public Education



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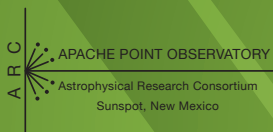


3

1 APACHE POINT OBSERVATORY

Apache Point Observatory operates four telescopes: The versatile and remotely operated 3.5-meter Astrophysical Research Consortium telescope, the 2.5-meter and 0.5-meter telescopes of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, and the 1.0-meter New Mexico State University telescope. The public is welcome to stroll the grounds during daylight hours. While observatory buildings are not open to the public, you may wish to visit our displays at the nearby Sunspot Astronomy and Visitor Center, Sunspot, NM.

www.apo.nmsu.edu



2 FRED LAWRENCE WHIPPLE OBSERVATORY

The Smithsonian Institution's Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory is located on Mount Hopkins in the Santa Rita Range of the Coronado National Forest, south of Tucson, Arizona. The Visitors Center, at the base of Mount Hopkins, is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Observatory conducts guided tours for the general public from mid-March through November. Tours originate at the Observatory's Visitor Center. For tour details, reservations and directions, please call the Visitors Center.

www.cfa.harvard.edu/flwo/visitcenter.html



3 KITT PEAK NATIONAL OBSERVATORY

The world's largest collection of optical telescopes is located high above the Sonoran Desert under some of the finest night skies in the world. Kitt Peak, on the Tohono O'odham Reservation, is home to twenty-two optical and two radio telescopes representing eight astronomical research institutions.

The Kitt Peak National Observatory Visitor Center is open to the public daily from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Guided tours are offered daily at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 1:30 p.m. and group tours are available by appointment. You can stargaze at Kitt Peak with our Nightly Observing Programs.

www.noao.edu/outreach/kpoutreach.html



4 McDONALD OBSERVATORY

Join us at McDonald Observatory in the Davis Mountains of West Texas! We offer daily tours of our research telescopes, including the Hobby-Eberly Telescope – one of the world's largest. Our Frank N. Bash Visitors Center offers the Decoding Starlight exhibit, a theater that shows daily live viewings of the Sun (weather permitting), a gift shop, and a cafe. We hold public star parties every Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday night in our Telescope Park.

mcdonaldobservatory.org



5 NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY

The VLA, made famous in movies, books, documentaries and other media, has made landmark discoveries in nearly every branch of astronomy. This impressive and photogenic scientific icon, with 27 giant dish antennas rising from the high southwestern desert, is open to visitors every day from 8:30 a.m. until sunset. A self-guided walking tour, indoor displays, videos and a gift shop await the curious visitor. Bring your camera!

www.vla.nrao.edu



6 NATIONAL SOLAR OBSERVATORY

Take a refreshing walk through the Sacramento Mountains in the Lincoln National Forest, and explore your Sun at the Sunspot Astronomy and Visitor's Center at Sunspot, NM. Here the National Solar Observatory has a spectacular view of the Tularosa Basin, including White Sands. Dry air, isolation from major air pollution, and plenty of sunshine make this an excellent site for observing our Sun – or simply relaxing away from the rest of the world.

nsosp.nso.edu



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