

SCOPE Member Observatories and Their Locations



Apache Point Observatory

Apache Point Observatory operates four telescopes: The versatile and remotely operated 3.5-meter Astrophysical Research Consortium telescope; the 2.5-m Sloan Foundation telescope; the 1.0-m New Mexico State University telescope; and the 0.5-m Astrophysical Research Consortium 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 Visitors Center, Sunspot, New Mexico.

www.apo.nmsu.edu

575-437-6822

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/facilities/flwo/visit_center.html

520-670-5707

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 Nation, is home to 24 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

520-318-8732

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. McDonald Observatory is a research unit of The University of Texas at Austin.

mcdonaldobservatory.org

877-984-7827 or 432-426-3640

National Radio Astronomy Observatory

NRAO's Very Large Array, 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

505-835-7410

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

575-434-7190