

VZPOMÍNKY (14)

MC DONALDOVA OBSERVATOŘ, Fort Davis, TX

Location

McDonald Observatory is located in the heart of the Davis Mountains of West Texas. Visitors traveling east on Interstate 10 from El Paso take Highway 118 south at Kent for the 39-mile scenic drive to the Observatory. Visitors traveling west on Interstate 10 may take Highway 17 south at Balmorhea to Fort Davis, then Highway 118 north 16 miles to the Observatory. Visitors coming from Big Bend National Park take Highway 118 north through Alpine and Fort Davis to the Observatory.

Food and Lodging

The StarDate Café inside the Visitors Center is open daily. Picnicking and camping facilities are located nearby on State Highway 118. Davis Mountains State Park offers overnight accommodations, dining, and camping sites just 13 miles south of the Observatory. Gas, food, and lodging also are available in Fort Davis (16 miles), Alpine (40 miles), and Marfa (38 miles).

Private Programs

Private tours and Star Parties are available on a reservation-only basis. A 30-day advance registration and deposit are required. Call for reservations and prices.

Special Events

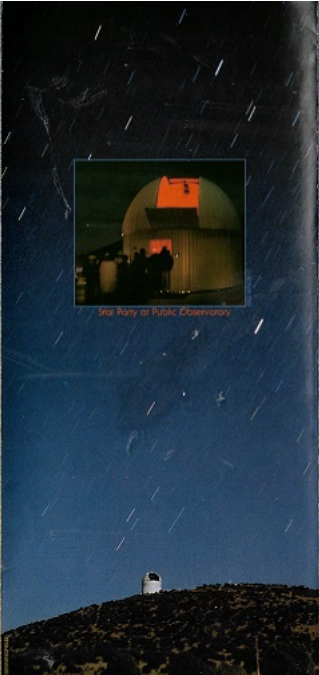
Throughout the year we offer special programs. Check our web site for upcoming events.

Contact

Reservations/Information: 915-426-3640
Recorded message: 1-877-984-7827 (toll free — for seasonal program times and prices.)
Web Site: <http://mcdonaldobservatory.org>

McDonald Observatory Visitors Center
HC 75 Box 1337 VC
Fort Davis, TX 79734-5019





Star Party at Public Observatory

The University of Texas at Austin

McDONALD OBSERVATORY



McDONALD OBSERVATORY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
FORT DAVIS, TEXAS





WELCOME TO McDONALD OBSERVATORY

McDonald Observatory is one of the major astronomical research facilities in the world and is open to the public daily. The new Visitors Center offers a unique astronomical experience, insight into the workings of this scientific facility, and special access to the research telescopes. McDonald Observatory is one of the darkest sites in the world for astronomical observing. Visitors have opportunities to view the sky using telescopes in the Telescope Park adjacent to the Visitors Center or the base of Mt. Locke.

Check-In Point: Visitors Center

McDonald Observatory and the Visitors Center are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily (except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Days). The Visitors Center is the check-in point for all daytime and evening visitor activities. Inside the Visitors Center, you will find extensive exhibits which explain what astronomers do at the Observatory, as well as a theater, astronomy-related gift shop, cafe, and restrooms. To inquire about handicap access, please call our reservation number.





Otto Struve 82 inch telescope
Harlan J. Smith 102 inch telescope
Hobby-Eberly 433 inch telescope

McDONALD OBSERVATORY BY DAY

Guided Tours

The guided tour is the best introduction to the Observatory. Knowledgeable guides interpret the telescopes' histories, operations, and research, offering a personal and extensive Observatory experience. View the largest telescope mirror in the world. Observe spectacular hundred-mile vistas of area mountains from the top of Mt. Locke, site of the highest public road in Texas. Guided tours are offered at various times during the day. Tour tickets can be purchased at the Visitors Center. Plan to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to tour time to ensure the availability of tour tickets. The tour lasts approximately one hour. Recreational vehicle access is limited, and shuttle service is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Call the recorded message with seasonal tour times and prices, or visit our web site.

Self-Guided Tours

Self-guided tours are available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day. A brochure with information about each station on the tour may be purchased at the Visitors Center. Self-guided tours are free. Arrive by 4 p.m. to begin your tour; the visitor galleries at the telescopes close at 5 p.m.

Solar Viewing

Solar viewing activities take place twice daily at the Visitors Center. View live images of the Sun and observe solar activity such as sunspots, prominences, and flares. The program is free of charge, open to everyone, and lasts approximately 15 minutes.

McDONALD OBSERVATORY BY NIGHT

Star Parties

Each Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday at sunset, everyone is invited to join the Star Party — our most popular public program. Join the constellation tour and observe celestial objects through telescopes in the Telescope Park at the base of Mt. Locke. When weather prevents viewing through the telescopes, an alternate program is offered. Tickets may be purchased at any time on the day or evening of the Star Party. Call our toll-free recorded message for ticket prices, or check our web site.

Visitors Center Evening Hours and Star Party Times

Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday Evenings Only			
Jan-Mar	April-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec
Star Parties begin			
7:30 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Visitors Center* opens			
7:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	7:00 p.m.

* The Visitors Center stays open throughout the Star Party. Star Parties last approximately two hours.

Public Viewing Night on Research Telescopes

Although professional astronomers compete for time on the research telescopes and work all night when they are at the Observatory, we routinely reserve time for public viewing, weather permitting. Reservations are required and space is limited. Tickets typically must be purchased months in advance. Call for reservations and ticket prices, and/or check availability at our web site.

Observatoř se nachází v srdci Davisových hor v západním Texasu. Na dvou kopcích jsou astronomické dalekohledy a teleskop společně s dalšími menšími:

- OTTO STRUVE teleskop,
- HARLAN J. SMITH teleskop,
- HOBBY EBERLY teleskop.

- První dva na vrcholu Mt. Locke, poslední na vrcholu Mt. Fowlkes.

V současnosti se toto výzkumné astronomické centrum věnuje v rámci programů The University of Texas of Austin: planetárním systémům, hvězdám, hvězdné spektroskopii, astronomii jako celku, mezihvězdnému prostředí.

Finanční impuls k založení observatoře dal texaský podnikatel a miliardář William Johnson Mc Donald (1844 - 1926).