

Schedule of sky observation evenings in 2019

Every evening an expert stargazer will be at the disposal of visitors in the Observatory. S/he will explain the constellations and point the telescopes onto the most interesting deep-sky objects, keeping any special requests or desires in mind.

Saturday, May 4

Mars can be viewed in Taurus with the Takahashi 152 mm refractor. Due to the new moon and the fact that there is no moonlight to interfere, this is the ideal night to observe deep-sky objects. With our telescope, 65 cm in diameter and 5-metre focal diameter, gazers will be able to detect globular clusters such as M3 in Canes Venatici as well as galaxies like M65 in Leo.

Saturday, May 11

The waxing moon, located between the Leo and Cancer constellations, will be the “star” of the night. The lunar maria and craters can be observed with both the telescopes in the Observatory. The Great Bear and the Little Bear will be visible high up in the northern sky. Mars visible at sunset in Taurus.

Saturday, May 18

To the south the constellations Virgo and Coma Berenices with M53, a globular cluster with a magnitude of 8. The full moon is located in Libra to the east. Moving to the west we will meet Leo and Cancer with the open cluster M44, also known as Praesepe or Beehive cluster, 0,6 light years away. Mars to the west moves further down in Gemini.

Saturday, May 25

The waning moon makes it possible to observe deep-sky objects such as the globular clusters M13 and M92 in the Boötes and Hercules constellations and M64 (NGC 4826), also known as the Black Eye Galaxy, as well as the spiral galaxy M88, in Coma Berenices.

Saturday, June 1

New moon on the 3rd June, ideal conditions for observing galaxies and globular clusters. To the south-east the Ophiuchus and Corona Borealis constellations with the bright star Alpha Coronae Borealis. Mars still lower in Gemini.

Saturday, June 8

Waxing moon in Leo, the ideal night to observe the details of the lunar surface near the terminator, where shadow and light meet, enabling the third dimension of the lunar landscape to appear clearly. To the east, low on the horizon, Scorpius starts appearing with Antares, its brightest star.

Saturday, June 15

The constellations of early summer. To the North, Cepheus and Camelopardalis; to the Northwest, Ursa Major, Ursa Minor and Draco. To the South, Ophiuchus (the serpent-bearer), Libra and Hercules with globular clusters M13 and M92. To the East, the Summer Triangle appears with the stars Vega, Altair and Deneb.



Saturday, June 22

The summer sky offers many interesting observations: In Lyra, the planetary nebula M57, the "double-double" star and beautiful Albireo, a double star at the head of Cygnus and other objects visible with a 61-cm telescope, are all of interest.

Saturday, June 29

The summer sky features some very interesting objects: M39 is an open cluster in Cygnus that contains around 24 stars bright and visible enough to be seen even with binoculars. One can also see Antares.

Saturday, July 6

The summer sky offers many interesting observations: stars, clusters and galaxies in the triangle formed by the constellations Lyra, Cygnus and Aquila. This evening, with a dim moon to the west, it will be possible to observe the lunar surface as well as other deep-sky objects with the Observatory's main telescope.

Saturday, July 13

To the West Leo, while Scorpius can be seen to the South with Antares, a bright first magnitude star. Ophiuchus and Bootes are higher in the sky. Saturn is visible.

Saturday, July 16

Partial lunar eclipse. The moon will be eclipsed only partially, not totally, by the earth's shadow, and will be in the company of Saturn in Sagittarius and Jupiter in Ophiuchus. It will rise at 9.06 p.m., already partially eclipsed and will reach maximum coverage at 11.30 p.m. It will come out completely of the earth's shadow only on July 17 at 00.59 a.m. Thanks to the Ritchey-Chretien reflecting telescope, 61 cm in diameter and with a 5-metre focal diameter, it will be possible to observe other bodies in the sky, as well as Saturn and Jupiter. We recommend you bring your own binoculars so as to better appreciate the whole event.

Saturday, July 20

Observation of small constellations: Equuleus, Delphinus, Vulpecula, Sagitta and Scutum. Explanation of the summer constellations. Observation of many deep-sky objects with the 61-cm diameter telescope. Saturn is visible.

Saturday, July 27

The big telescope, with a diameter of 61 cm, enables numerous faint objects to be spotted in the summer sky. To the south-east Saturn in Sagittarius, to the south Jupiter in Ophiuchus. The moon sets in Taurus, to the west the Andromeda and Pegasus constellations become more visible.

Saturday, August 3

The 3-day-old moon allows us to make the most of the Observatory instruments: the apochromatic fluorite Takahashi 152 mm refractor for planets, and the 61 cm reflector for deep-sky objects. It will also be possible to admire the Milky Way with the naked eye as it moves through the sky from Sagittarius to Cygnus and further.



Saturday, August 10

Almost full moon to the south, an ideal evening to observe the lunar surface and the planets, such as Saturn and Jupiter, with the apochromatic fluorite Takahashi 152 mm refractor as well as with the 61 cm reflector. It is also always very interesting to observe the constellations of the summer triangle formed by Aquila, Lyra and Cygnus.

Monday, August 12

The night of the "Tears of Saint Lawrence". The Perseids, also known as the Tears of Saint Lawrence, are undoubtedly the most popular meteor shower. Even less expert sky-observers enjoy spotting the falling stars. This year the peak will be in the night between 12th and 13th of August. In the event of a scarce meteor shower, visitors will be able to console themselves by observing the summer constellations with the naked eye, with the explanations of an amateur astronomer. Or you can observe the moon, Saturn, Jupiter and other celestial bodies with the Ritchey-Chretien 61 cm reflector.

Saturday, August 17

Low moon to the east in the company of Neptune (not visible with the naked eye), Saturn to the south in Sagittarius and Jupiter close by in Ophiuchus. Cygnus, Lyra, Hercules and many other objects to be seen in the summer sky.

Saturday, August 24

The moon rises at midnight, observation of the Andromeda constellation. Within the constellation stargazers will be able to spot the Andromeda galaxy, Pegasus, Cassiopeia and Draco, either with the naked eye or with the two telescopes in the Observatory.

Saturday, August 31

New moon. Observation of the constellations Cepheus, Hercules with M13 and M92, Lyra with the planetary nebula M57 and the "Double-Double star". Cygnus with various objects and the double star Albireo. From the telescopes in the observatory stargazers will be able to admire Saturn and Jupiter in the company of Neptune.

Saturday, September 7

The following constellations can be seen high up in the sky: Lyra, Vulpecula, Draco and Ophiuchus. With the moon in the first quarter, it is an ideal evening to observe the lunar surface and the planets Saturn, Jupiter and Neptune with the Takahashi 152 mm refractor and the 61 cm reflecting telescope.

Saturday, September 14

The constellations of the Delphinus, Equuleus and Vulpecula are clearly visible in the sky to the South. In the Northeast, low on the horizon is the bright star Capella in the constellation of Auriga.



Saturday, September 21

To the north the constellations of the Great Bear with the M81 and M82 galaxies as well as the Little Bear. To the north-east Perseus with the Double Cluster and the multiple star Algol. In the same area the Triangulum with M33. The Draco constellation can be seen high up in the sky between the two Bears. Another star to look out for is Thuban, which the ancient Egyptians considered to be the “north pole star”. Besides Saturn and Jupiter, stargazers will also be able to locate Neptune in Aquarius and Uranus in Pisces, although not with the naked eye.

Saturday, September 28

New moon – observation of planets and deep-sky objects with the experts’ explanations of the visible constellations. To the south Pegasus, the Great Square with the globular cluster M15, the Dumbbell nebula M27 in the small constellation Vulpecula, Aquarius and Piscis Austrinus, with the bright star Fomalhaut. Uranus, Neptune, Saturn and Jupiter can also be viewed.

Saturday, October 5

A panoramic look at the constellations visible in the October sky in the fall. To the South, Capricornus low on the horizon. Just above, Aquarius and the square of Pegasus, while at the zenith, Lacerta and the tail of Cygnus with the first magnitude star Deneb. Neptune in Aquarius and Uranus in Pisces can be seen with the 61-cm telescope.

Saturday, October 12

The main constellations visible in October include Ursa Mayor and Minor to the North, and Auriga, Gemini, Camelopardalis, Lynx and Perseus to the Northeast. To the East, Orion, Aries, Taurus and the Triangle. Cetus and Pisces to the Southeast. Aquarius and Piscis Austrinus to the South. Capricornus, Equuleus and Sagittarius to the Southwest, with Aquila, Cygnus and Delphinus to the West. Draco and Hercules are clearly visible to the Northwest.

Saturday, October 19

High in the sky, Andromeda, Cassiopeia, Lacerta, Pegasus and Cepheus. The open clusters NGC752 and NGC7686, the planetary nebula NGC7662 in Andromeda and the Galaxy M31, the twin of the Milky Way, are all of great interest.

Saturday, October 26

New moon – an ideal evening to observe deep-sky objects and the planets: Uranus in Aries, Neptune in Aquarius, Saturn in Sagittarius and Jupiter in Ophiuchus. To the east the Pleiades and slightly above them the Perseus constellation and its famous double cluster can be viewed with both telescopes: the 61 cm reflector and the 152 mm refractor. The double cluster can be observed with non-astronomical binoculars too. Therefore, if you have binoculars, we recommend you bring them. One of our expert stargazers will help you locate the cluster.