

Updated March 1, 2021

Planetarium Shows for General Audiences (April 2021–March 2022)

The planetarium theme changes on a monthly basis and is selected from among a wide variety of astronomical and cosmological topics, including current astronomical events and how to find stars that you wish to observe in the night sky that night.

Planetarium shows are presented with live commentaries for general audiences by our expert curators.

– In Celebration of Our Upgrades –

April–May: A Total Lunar Eclipse Seen from Space (Apr. 1–May 28)

A total lunar eclipse will occur on May 26. Highlights of the event will include observing the moon not only disappearing from view but also looking reddish in the process. In this show, the latest technological upgrades made to our planetarium will allow you to observe the lunar eclipse from space.

– In Celebration of Our Upgrades –

June–July: The Shape of the Milky Way (May 29–Jul. 18)

Thanks to advances in astronomy and planetarium projection systems, scientifically accurate presentations of the shape and structure of the Milky Way have become possible. To bring up the Japanese star festival *Tanabata*, this show explores the wonders of the galaxy.

– In Celebration of Our Upgrades –

August: Shooting Stars and Fireballs (Jul. 20–Aug. 31)

This summer will present excellent conditions for watching the Perseids. Meanwhile, fireballs, or very bright meteors, are attracting considerable attention recently. This show features 3D views of shooting stars and fireballs made possible thanks to our newly introduced digital projection system.

September–October: The Lure of Saturn (Sep. 1–Oct. 14)

The planet Saturn, encircled by rings, appears captivating through a telescope. The appearance of rings changes over the years, and is good looking in these last few years. Explaining the reason of the phenomenon, this show will take you on a future trip to ~~the future~~ Saturn.

November: The International Space Station (Oct. 16–Nov. 30)

The International Space Station (ISS), manned by a succession of Japanese astronauts recently, can be seen in the sky easily by the naked eye on the ground. This show explains what the crew do on board and why the ISS can be spotted.

December: Christmas Stars (Dec. 1–Dec. 26)

This show explores the relationships between Christmas and the stars, including the timing of

Christmas and the winter solstice, and why a star is placed on top of the Christmas tree as a popular decoration.

January: The World of Auroras (Dec. 28–Jan. 30)

Auroras illuminating the polar night skies are a phenomenon shaped by the interaction between the activities of the Sun and the magnetic field surrounding the Earth. The mechanism of the phenomenon is now being revealed by studies into the space environment. This show offers full-dome displays of auroras.

February: Dark Matter (Feb. 1–Feb. 27)

Built upon years and centuries of preceding research, cutting-edge science is challenging but fascinating. Current science knows little about dark matter, but it is believed to be potentially essential to the universe. This show offers a glimpse into the world of dark matter.

March: Stars in the Sky in the Future (From Mar. 1)

Tens of thousands of years from now, will the constellations in the night sky look differently from what we see today?

Using our digital planetarium system, the show simulates transitions of how stars will look in the night sky in the future, based on the predicted movement of stars.

Family Hour

Family Hour shows are fun and relaxing for the whole family to watch, including preschoolers and younger elementary school children. On top of showing you the night sky on that day, these shows take you on space voyages and adventures. They are also recommended for visitors experiencing a planetarium for the first time.

Reservation is available for clubs and other groups for children, depending on the day and time. Please contact the planetarium for details.

Apr. 3–Jul.4: An Exploration through the Solar System

Jul. 10–Nov. 28: Step into the World of Stars

Dec. 4–Mar. 6: The Story of Twin Stars

From Mar. 12: An Exploration through the Solar System