

## Planetarium Shows for General Audiences (April 2024 – March 2025)

The planetarium theme changes monthly. The topics cover a wide range of astronomy and space exploration. This includes current astronomical events and how to find stars that night. Our expert curators present the planetarium shows with live commentaries in Japanese for general audiences.

### April: Starry Sky Music Box: Spring (Mar. 26 – Apr. 18)

Imagine the stars' movement as a music box. As they cross the meridian—a line connecting south, zenith, and north—each star plays unique notes based on their position and brightness, similar to how the pins on a music box cylinder strike the tines. Listen to the spring version of the "Starry Sky Music Box" and its wonderful tones.

### May: The Myth of Virgo (Apr. 20 – May 31)

Legends say, Virgo was once Dike, the Goddess of Justice. While the other gods who had been living with humans left, Dike tried to stay on the earth until the end, but she eventually ascended to heaven.

### June: The Sun (Jun. 1 – Jul. 10)

Our Sun, the nearest star to Earth, serves as the advantage to study how stars produce energy and what happens on their surface. This show explores the latest solar research based on data from both large ground-based telescopes and artificial satellites.

### July and August: A Milky Way Galaxy Tour (Jul. 11 – Aug. 29)

Ever seen the Milky Way? The faint band of light in the summer night sky is actually a large group of about 200 billion stars arranged in a spiral. This show will transport you beyond Earth for a close look at the Milky Way and its neighbors.

### September: Will Saturn's Rings Disappear? (Aug. 30 – Oct. 2)

Did you know that the appearance of Saturn's rings changes gradually every year? In March 2025, they will be almost invisible for the first time in about 15 years. This show will tell you how Saturn's rings are structured and what makes their appearance change.

### October: Digital Planetariums (Oct. 3 – 31)

A digital planetarium system creates a miniature universe inside a computer, based on various space observation data. Using the system, we can reproduce starry skies from the distant past or future, or astronomical phenomena occurring far away from Earth.

### November: Time and Astronomy (Nov. 1 – Dec. 4)

Observing the sky, people have discovered that celestial events occur in cycles. The movement of the sun across the sky and the moon's waxing and waning process happen over certain periods of time. These cycles have become a yardstick for measuring time, linking our calendar with astronomy.

### December: The Cosmic Calendar (Dec. 5 – 26)

About 13.8 billion years ago, the universe began with the Big Bang. Later, stars and galaxies formed, and the universe gradually became what it is today. This show squeezes the history of the universe into one calendar year.

### January: The Planet Street (Dec. 27 – Jan. 31)

Following dusk at this time of year, you'll find four planets: Venus, Saturn, Jupiter, and Mars, aligned along an invisible path. They subtly shift their positions along this celestial street known as the ecliptic, each day offering a unique view.

### February: How an Aurora Is Formed (Feb. 1 – Mar. 7)

An aurora is light produced when electrically charged particles from the Sun enter Earth's atmosphere. Enjoy an aurora spreading across the planetarium dome as the show explains how it happens.

### March: High-energy Astronomy (Mar. 8 –)

X-rays and gamma rays are high-energy electromagnetic waves generated by highly active hot celestial bodies and explosions. There are also high-speed particles that soar into Earth from space. This show features the cutting edge of high-energy astronomy.

## Family Hour

Family Hour shows, designed for families with preschool and early elementary school-aged children, are playful and fun. These shows take you on space journeys and other adventures, as well as giving a view of the stars visible in the sky on that day. We also recommend these shows to those visiting a planetarium for the first time.

Reservations are available for kids' clubs and other groups of children, depending on the date and time. Please contact us for details.

Mar. 26 – Jun. 30	Step into the World of Stars
Jul. 6 – Dec. 15	The Adventure through the Solar System
Dec. 21 – Feb. 16	The Tale of the Twin Stars
Feb. 22 –	The Exciting Journey in Space