

Planetarium Shows for General Audiences (April 2025 – March 2026)

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: “Disappearance” of Saturn’s Rings! (Apr. 10 - May 8)

The appearance of Saturn's rings changes from year to year. The rings were tilted edge-on to the Earth on March 24 and will be to the sun on May 7, making them almost invisible. The show explains how the appearance of the rings changes and the best time to watch them.

May: Constellations: Western Countries and China (May 9 - Jun. 6)

Mesopotamia is the origin of the history of the constellations that still continues today. On the other hand, China has culturally embraced its own constellations. The Chinese constellations are depicted in part of the mural paintings of the Kitora Tumulus in Nara.

June: Black Holes (Jun. 7 - Jul. 17)

The Milky Way galaxy has a supermassive black hole at its center. An image of the black hole's shadow has been successfully captured, following that of the M87 galaxy in the Virgo Cluster. This show introduces the cutting edge of black hole research.

July and August: Aim for Moon Landings! (Jul. 19 - Sep. 6)

Lunar exploration in the 21st century is driven mainly by targeted unmanned landings. This trend is indicated by, for example, landings on the far side of the moon and in the polar regions, sample return missions, Japan's incredibly precise landing technology, and attempts from the private sector. Today, countries are competing fiercely with one another.

September: Enjoy a Starry Sky with Your Smartphone (Sep. 7 - Sep. 30)

The great evolution of smartphone camera technology has made it easy to take photos of the starry sky. A smartphone also allows access to convenient starry sky apps and online information no matter where the viewer is, even outdoors. This show presents a brief explanation of how to enjoy a starry sky using a smartphone.

October: Starry Sky in Sydney - 45th Anniversary of Sister City Relationship - (Oct. 1 - Oct. 30)

To commemorate the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the Sister City relationship between Nagoya and Sydney, this show recreates a starry sky in Sydney in the planetarium. The show provides an opportunity to enjoy the southern starry sky featuring the Southern Cross and the Magellanic Clouds, which cannot be seen from Nagoya.

November: James Webb Space Telescope (Oct. 31 - Nov. 30)

Launched in 2021, the James Webb Space Telescope is producing a series of excellent results at a distance of 1.5 million km from the Earth. While explaining the progress after the launch, including scientific achievements, the show is accompanied by beautiful images.

December: Search for Life in the Solar System (Dec. 3 - Jan. 6)

Mars exemplifies the current search for life in the solar system, but in fact, life might exist near Jupiter and Saturn, even though they are much farther away from the Sun and therefore supposedly colder. Search for life on moons of the large planets has already begun.

January to March: Tale of Canis Minor (from Jan. 7, except for the planetarium maintenance period from Jan.20 to Mar.18)

Since ancient times, people have looked up at the starry heavens, let their imaginations run wild, and created all kinds of tales. This show introduces a tale of Canis Minor, the constellation that shines a little sadly in the frozen winter night sky.

Family Hour

Family Hour shows are fun, engaging and relaxing to watch for the whole family, including preschoolers and younger elementary school children. They show you what to look for in the sky that night and take you on space voyages and adventures. They are also great for experiencing a planetarium for the first time.

Some of the time slots are available to reserve for groups, such as children's clubs. Please contact us for more details.

Feb. 22 to Jun. 8:	"Exciting! Space Voyage"
Jun. 14 to - Sep. 15:	"Tale of Delphinus"
Sep. 20 - Mar. 22:	"Solar System Adventure"
From Mar. 24:	"Exciting! Space Voyage"