

## Planetarium Shows for General Audiences April 2026 to March 2027 (updated Apr.12 2026)

The planetarium theme changes monthly. The topics cover a wide field 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: Universe Made Up of Galaxies

(Apr. 8 to May 8)

We are in the Milky Way Galaxy, made up of hundreds of billions of stars. There are many more galaxies—large collections of stars—beyond Our Galaxy. Currently, large-scale observations are revealing the three-dimensional distribution of galaxies.

### May: Evening Stars (May 9 to Jun. 11)

At dusk around this time of the year, two stars are shining with an overwhelming presence in the western sky. The brightest is Venus, while the other is Jupiter. The relative position of two stars changes day by day, and they appear closest to each other on June 9.

### June: Exploring Asteroids (Jun. 12 to Jul. 17)

Having successfully delivered samples from the asteroid Ryugu to the Earth, Hayabusa2 is still continuing its mission. On July 5, Hayabusa2 is scheduled to perform a high-speed flyby observation of the asteroid Trifune.

### June and August: The Space Elevator

(Jul. 18 to Sep. 9)

Are there any ways to get to space other than by rocket? Consideration is being given to the concept of a “space elevator,” which would travel back and forth between the Earth and space along a cable connecting a ground facility to a station in geostationary orbit.

### September: Is Chushu-no-Meigetsu Celebrated on a Full Moon? (Sep. 10 to Sep. 30)

This year, Chushu-no-Meigetsu is on September 25. While a nearly full moon will rise, the actual full moon will occur on September 27. In fact, Chushu-no-Meigetsu does not always coincide with a full moon. The show explains the relationship between the calendar and Chushu-no-Meigetsu.

### October: The Tale of Andromeda

(Oct. 1 to Oct. 30)

On long autumn nights, people in the past must have also enjoyed leisurely gazing at the night sky. Andromeda, Perseus, Cassiopeia, Cetus, and other constellations of this season share a single, magnificent story.

### November: Observatories in Japan

– 100th Anniversary of Public Observatories –  
(Oct. 31 to Nov. 23)

The history of public astronomical observatories, which provide the general public with opportunities for astronomical observation, began in October 1926 with the Kurashiki Observatory. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of public observatories in Japan, this show invites you on a journey through observatories that Japan has built around the world and the starry skies there.

### December: The Christmas Star (Nov. 25 to Dec. 25)

The star placed at the top of a Christmas tree is called the Star of Bethlehem, which is said to have guided three Magi to the birthplace of Jesus. What was the actual celestial event behind this?

## 2027

### January: The Orion Nebula (Dec. 26 to Jan. 29)

Situated slightly below the three stars of Orion’s belt, near the sword that hangs from the hunter’s waist, the Orion Nebula shines with a faint glow. Rich in hydrogen gas, the building block for stars, this is where new stars are being formed right now.

### February: Mars and Its Moons (Jan. 30 to Mar. 5)

Earth and Mars encounter each other approximately every 2 years and 2 months as they orbit the sun. Mars probes have been launched to coincide with that timing. Experience the closest approach of Mars and its moons in late February.

### March: Aurora Watching (from Mar. 6)

Auroras, illuminating the polar night, are a spectacular display produced by the interplay of solar activity and Earth’s magnetosphere. A glimpse of this phenomenon can sometimes be captured on camera from Japan. While reproducing auroras in the planetarium sky, we explain the science behind it.

## 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.

Mar. 24	to Aug. 6	"Exciting! Space Voyage"
Aug. 7, 2026	to Jan. 6, 2027	"Solar System Adventure"
From Jan. 9		"Wow! Exploring Mars"