

Private Stargazing Nights at Mount Stromlo

Mount Stromlo Observatory has been carrying out astronomical observations for over 100 years and, prior to the 2003 firestorm, had grown from a small outpost of pioneering astronomers to one of the great observatories of the world. Now you can experience it through the unique opportunity of a private stargazing night or behind-the-scenes tour of the facility.

All of our private stargazing nights are led by professional or experienced amateur astronomers from the Canberra Astronomical Society, and include after hours access to the observatory, use of Mt Stromlo's outreach telescopes, and a guided experience in viewing some of the most interesting features of the Southern Hemisphere sky.

As an alternative or an addition, guests can also have the opportunity to take a behind-the-scenes tour, which details the fascinating history of Mount Stromlo as the Commonwealth Solar Observatory, notable scientific achievements by its researchers, and its experience and rebirth following the 2003 bushfires, as well as providing access to areas not normally open to the public.

Private nights are wonderful highlight for your conference, or a special way to commemorate a birthday or major life event. With a limited number of bookings available (30 per year, approximately 2 per month, 3 per month in the Summer), it is recommended that you plan ahead and book early to avoid disappointment!

Fees and Bookings

Private Stargazing

Groups up to 5 people = \$440

Groups between 6-15 people = \$660

Groups between 16-40 people = \$880

Groups between 41-80 people = \$1760

Groups between 81-100 people = \$2640

Historic Tour

Groups up to 5 people = \$165

Groups between 6-15 people = \$220

Groups between 16-40 people = \$330

Groups between 41-80 people = \$440

Groups between 81-100 people = \$660

For groups of over 100 people, please contact us for rate information.

To book, please e-mail events@mso.anu.edu.au

If you are a school, educational or charitable (i.e. non-profit) organization, please contact outreach@mso.anu.edu.au to discuss costs and availability.

Terms and Conditions

Private stargazing sessions run for up to 2 hours (groups of 5 or less are only for 1 hour). Historic tours run for up to 1 hour. A stargazing session and tour can be requested together, with a run time of up to 3 hours.

Start times are variable, depending on sunset and object visibility, with nights in the summer starting later. Unlike stargazing sessions, historic tours can be run during daytime and early evening hours, prior to sunset.

Due to the variability of weather and visibility conditions, we will contact you by noon on the day of your scheduled event with information on weather and options, and give you the opportunity to reschedule or cancel if desired. If you do not contact us to request a reschedule or cancellation at least 6 hours before your scheduled night, we will proceed with your selected activities, and you will be invoiced for the full cost of the event as booked.

Our astronomers will always make an effort to provide an exciting and interactive experience, regardless of weather conditions and limited viewing.