



MARTIN HARRIS

# McDONALD OBSERVATORY

Fort Davis, Texas

## FOOD AND LODGING

The StarDate Café inside the Visitors Center is open daily serving fare with a Southwestern theme. Picnicking and camping facilities are located nearby on State Highway 118. Gas, food, and lodging are available in Fort Davis (17 miles), Alpine (40 miles), and Marfa (38 miles). For more information, visit <http://www.fortdavis.com/lodging.html>



*McDonald Observatory is located in the heart of the Davis Mountains of West Texas on Highway 118, 17 miles northwest of Fort Davis and 34 miles south of Kent.*



FRANK GIANCIOLO

The Rebecca Gale Telescope Park at the Visitors Center.

**<http://mcdonaldobservatory.org>**  
**Toll-free recorded message: 1-877-984-7827**  
**Information: 432-426-3640**

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**McDONALD OBSERVATORY**  
 THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN



Frank N. Bash Visitors Center at McDonald Observatory is the check-in point for all visitors.



See the largest telescope mirror in the world at the Hobby-Eberly Telescope.



Frank N. Bash Visitors Center at McDonald Observatory

## WELCOME TO McDONALD OBSERVATORY

Open to the public daily, McDonald Observatory is one of the major astronomical research facilities in the world. The Frank N. Bash Visitors Center offers a unique astronomical experience, insight into the workings of this scientific facility, and a variety of public programs.

### CHECK-IN POINT: VISITORS CENTER

The Visitors Center is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily (except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days). Extensive exhibits explain what astronomers do at the Observatory. The Center also includes a theater, Gift Shop, and the StarDate Café.

Ask about our Special Viewing Nights on the research telescopes, education programs, and membership benefits at the Information Desk, or visit our web site (below).



A Star Party under the darkest night skies of any observatory in the continental United States.

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

SEE CHART FOR SCHEDULE AND PRICES. PURCHASE TICKETS AT THE VISITORS CENTER. PLEASE ARRIVE 30 MINUTES EARLY FOR ALL PROGRAMS.

### DAYTIME PASS

#### (INCLUDES SOLAR VIEWING AND GUIDED TOUR)

Explore the "Decoding Starlight" exhibit at the Visitors Center and enjoy various astronomical presentations in our multimedia theater.

The Solar Viewing program includes interactive telescope views of sunspots, flares, and more in our theater.

The 90-minute guided tour features one of the Observatory's large research telescopes and spectacular hundred-mile mountain vistas. Recreational vehicle access is limited, and shuttle service is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

### STAR PARTY PASS

Enjoy night sky tours and views of celestial objects through telescopes at the Visitors Center and guided interpretation of astronomical topics. When weather prevents telescope viewing, a special astronomy program is provided; refunds are not available. No reservations are required or accepted for Star Parties. ***Dress warmly at all times of the year.*** The StarDate Café and Gift Shop open one hour before the Star Party.

### TWILIGHT PROGRAM

This hour-long workshop will enrich your Star Party experience. Perfect for all ages. Groups meet in the theater, classroom, and outdoor amphitheater. Topics and content vary.

Public Programs	Schedule	Adult	Child (Ages 6-12)	Family (best price for a family of 5+)
Daytime Pass* (includes Solar Viewing and Guided Tour)	Solar Viewing at 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. daily Tours follow Solar Viewing daily	\$8	\$7	\$30
Star Party Pass	Star Parties are held Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at dusk. Check <a href="http://mcdonaldobservatory.org/visitors/programs">mcdonaldobservatory.org/visitors/programs</a> or call 1-877-984-7827 for seasonal times.	\$10	\$8	\$40
Daytime and Star Party Pass	Admission, Tour, & Star Party	\$15	\$12	\$60
Twilight Program	Begins 90 minutes prior to Star Party	\$5-10	\$5-10	—

\* Daytime pass is discounted to \$5 (adult) \$4 (child) \$20 (family) from 3 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.

Discounted passes are available for military and seniors.



• No checks • Prices subject to change without notice.