

# Guided Tours

The Kitt Peak Visitor Center offers three guided tours each day (see visitor center cashier for prices). Each tour lasts approximately one hour. The tours begin in the Visitor Center with a brief introductory discussion, followed by a walking tour to the telescope which can be up to 1/4 mile away from the Visitor Center.

**Guided Tours begin at 10am, 11:30am, and 1:30pm.**



## McMath-Pierce Solar Telescope 10:00am

The first tour each day is of the world's largest solar telescope, the McMath-Pierce Solar Telescope.



## 2.1-m Telescope 11:30am

On this tour you will visit one of the early workhorses of Kitt Peak. Built in 1964, the 2.1-m telescope is still in high demand every night.



## Mayall 4-m Telescope 1:30pm

This telescope has been a landmark since 1973, and is easily visible from many points in Tucson. The 4-m is the largest optical telescope on Kitt Peak, and receives four times more requests for use than there are clear nights each year. From the Visitor Gallery you have a beautiful 360 degree view of Kitt Peak and the surrounding landscape. This tour lasts approximately 1.5 - 2 hours.

*The Kitt Peak Visitor Center is a non-profit institution. It operates by donations and fees collected through tours, gift shop sales and program fees.*

# Welcome

The mission of the National Observatory is to advance United States astronomy. Following a three-year survey of more than 150 sites, Kitt Peak was selected in 1957 as the location of the first national astronomical observatory. Today, Kitt Peak National Observatory is home to the largest collection of astronomical telescopes in the world. Located high above the Sonoran Desert on the Tohono O'odham Nation, Kitt Peak presently has twenty-five optical and 2 radio telescopes and offers astronomers some of the finest observing to be found in the world. The National Science Foundation signed a lease in October of 1958 with the Tribal Council of the Tohono O'odham Nation for use of 200 acres of the mountaintop under a perpetual agreement that is valid as long as only scientific research facilities are maintained at the site.

Kitt Peak National Observatory is part of the the National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO), which is based in Tucson. NOAO also operates Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory in Chile, and it provides U.S. astronomers with access to observing time on the Gemini North and South telescopes in Hawaii and Chile, respectively.

NOAO is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) under a cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Visitors are encouraged to take free self-guided tours of the 4-meter, 2.1-meter, and McMath-Pierce Solar telescopes. A visitor gallery is available in each of these observatories, and public access is limited to these telescopes only. Please be aware of vehicular traffic as you walk and possible telescope closures.

Kitt Peak National Observatory is a working observatory where astronomers sleep during the day. Since their dorms are located along routes you'll take to each of the telescopes, we ask that you try to keep the noise level down in these areas.

Pets are not allowed in any of the buildings and must be leashed at all times (except for service animals). Owners must clean up after them.

Smoking is not permitted on any portion of the observatory grounds.

Please turn off all cell phones as they interfere with the radio telescopes.

Kitt Peak is at an elevation of 6,875 feet. Persons with cardiac, respiratory, or other health-related concerns should take proper precautions.

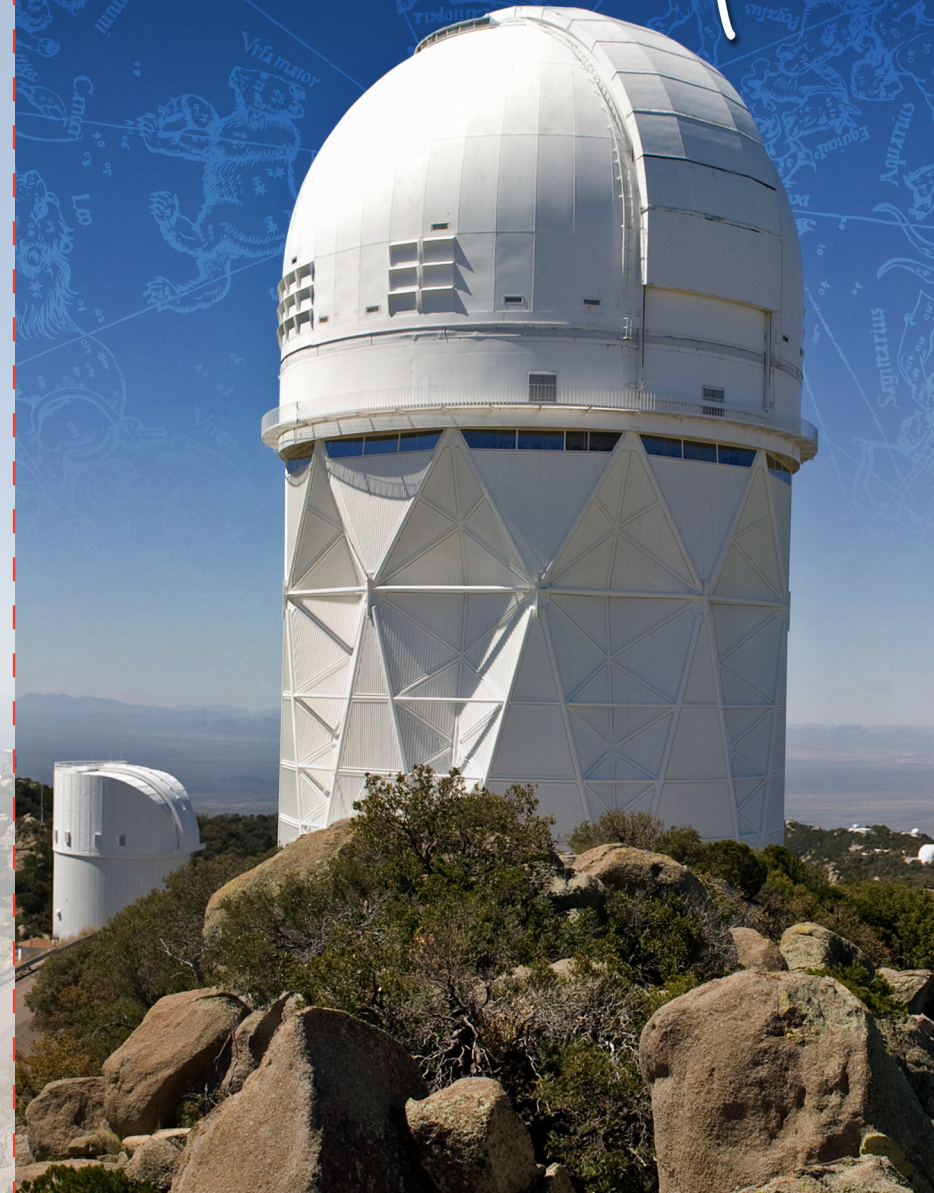
The Visitor Center and grounds closes promptly at 4:00pm. Kitt Peak also offers a Nightly Observing Program which is open to the public. Details are available at the Visitor Center: **520-318-8726**

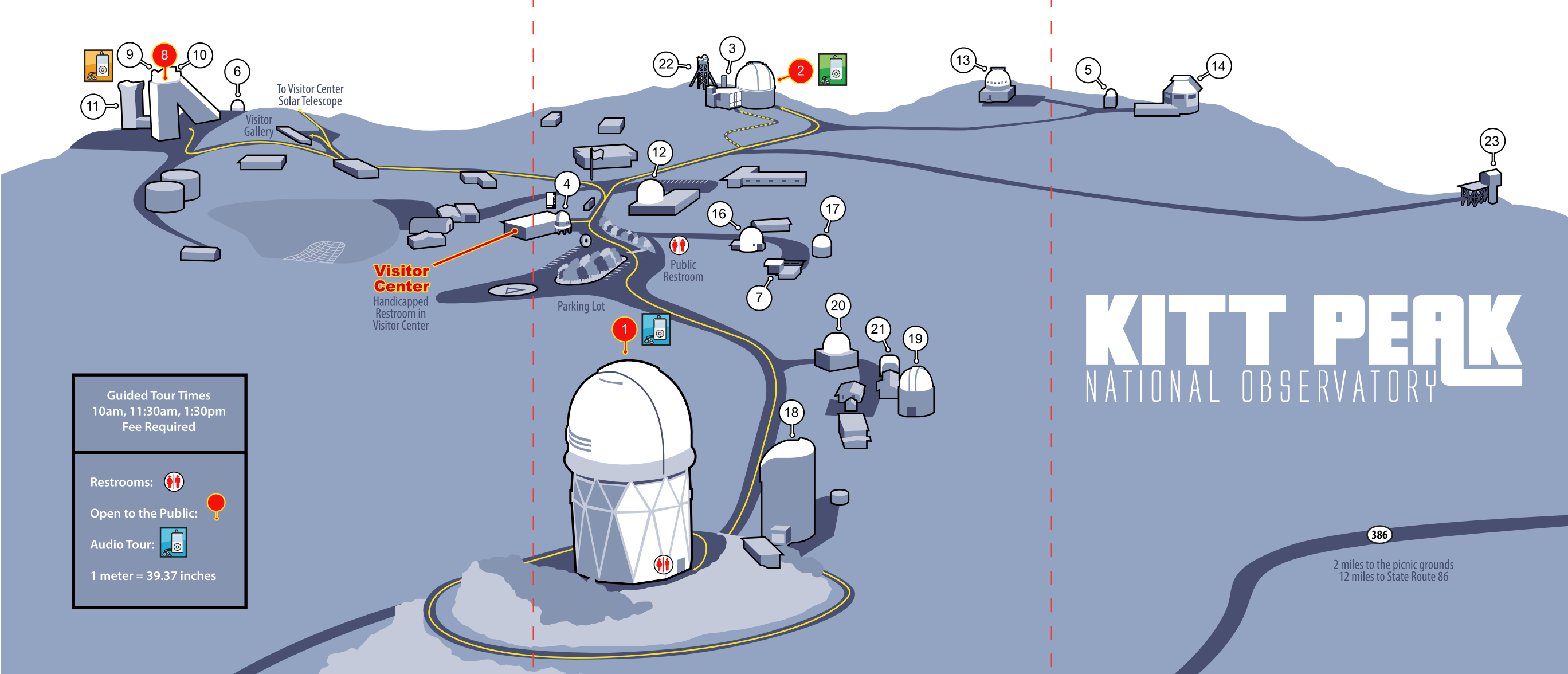
[www.noao.edu](http://www.noao.edu)



# KITT PEAK NATIONAL OBSERVATORY

## Tour Map





# KITT PEAK

## NATIONAL OBSERVATORY

**Guided Tour Times**  
10am, 11:30am, 1:30pm  
Fee Required

**Restrooms:**

**Open to the Public:**

**Audio Tour:**

1 meter = 39.37 inches

**Kitt Peak National Observatory**

- 1. 4-meter Mayall
- 2. 2.1-meter
- 3. 0.9-meter Coudé feed
- 4. 0.5-meter Visitor Center Telescope
- 5. 0.4-meter Visitor Center Telescope
- 6. Visitor Center/NSO Solar Telescope
- 7. 0.4-meter Visitor Center Telescope

**National Solar Observatory**

- 8. 2-meter McMath-Pierce (main)
- 9. 0.9-meter McMath-Pierce (E. Auxiliary)
- 10. 0.9-meter McMath-Pierce (W. Auxiliary)
- 11. SOLIS (Synoptic Optical Long-term Investigations of the Sun)

**Planetary Sciences Inst., Western Kentucky U., S. Carolina St., Villanova U., Fayetteville St.**

- 12. 1.3-meter

**WIYN Observatory (Wisconsin, Indiana, Yale, NOAO)**

- 13. 0.9-meter
- 14. 3.5-meter

**National Radio Astronomy Observatory**

- 15. 25-meter VLBA (Very Long Baseline Array) Not Visible on Map

**Warner & Swasey Observatory**

(Operated by Case Western Reserve University)  
16. 0.6-meter Burrell Schmidt

**SARA Observatory** (Florida Inst. of Technology, E. Tennessee St., Florida Int'l, Butler Univ, Valparaiso Univ, Agnes Scott College, Ball State Univ, Univ of Alabama, Valdosta St., Clemson Univ)  
17. 0.9-meter

**Steward Observatory** (University of Arizona)  
18. 2.3-meter Bok Reflector

**University of Arizona Lunar and Planetary Laboratory**

- 19. 0.9-meter Spacewatch
- 20. 1.8-meter Spacewatch

**LOTIS** (Livermore Optical Transient Imaging System)  
21. 0.6-meter

**22. DIMM all-sky camera**

**Calypto Observatory** (Large Synoptic Survey Telescope)  
23. 1.2-meter telescope

**MDM Observatory** (Michigan, Dartmouth, Ohio St., Columbia, Ohio Univ)  
24. 1.3-meter McGraw Hill Not Visible on Map  
25. 2.4-meter Hiltner Not Visible on Map

**Arizona Radio Observatory** (University of Arizona)  
26. 12-meter radio telescope Not Visible on Map

386  
2 miles to the picnic grounds  
12 miles to State Route 86