

Guided Tours

The Kitt Peak Visitor Center offers three guided tours each day (see visitor center cashier for prices). 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.



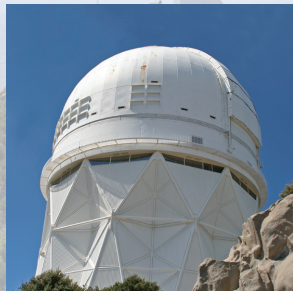
McMath-Pierce Solar Telescope 10:00am

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



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. This facility is not wheel chair accessible.



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. 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. This facility is not wheel chair accessible.

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, heavy machinery, and wildlife 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 will 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. All weapons are forbidden.

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 closes at 3:45pm and the observatory grounds close at 4pm. We offer several nighttime stargazing programs. Go to www.noao.edu/kpvc for information and easy online registration or call the Visitor Center at **520-318-8726**

www.noao.edu/kpvc



KITT PEAK NATIONAL OBSERVATORY

Tour Map



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/Meade Solar Telescope Array
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 (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

Calypso Observatory

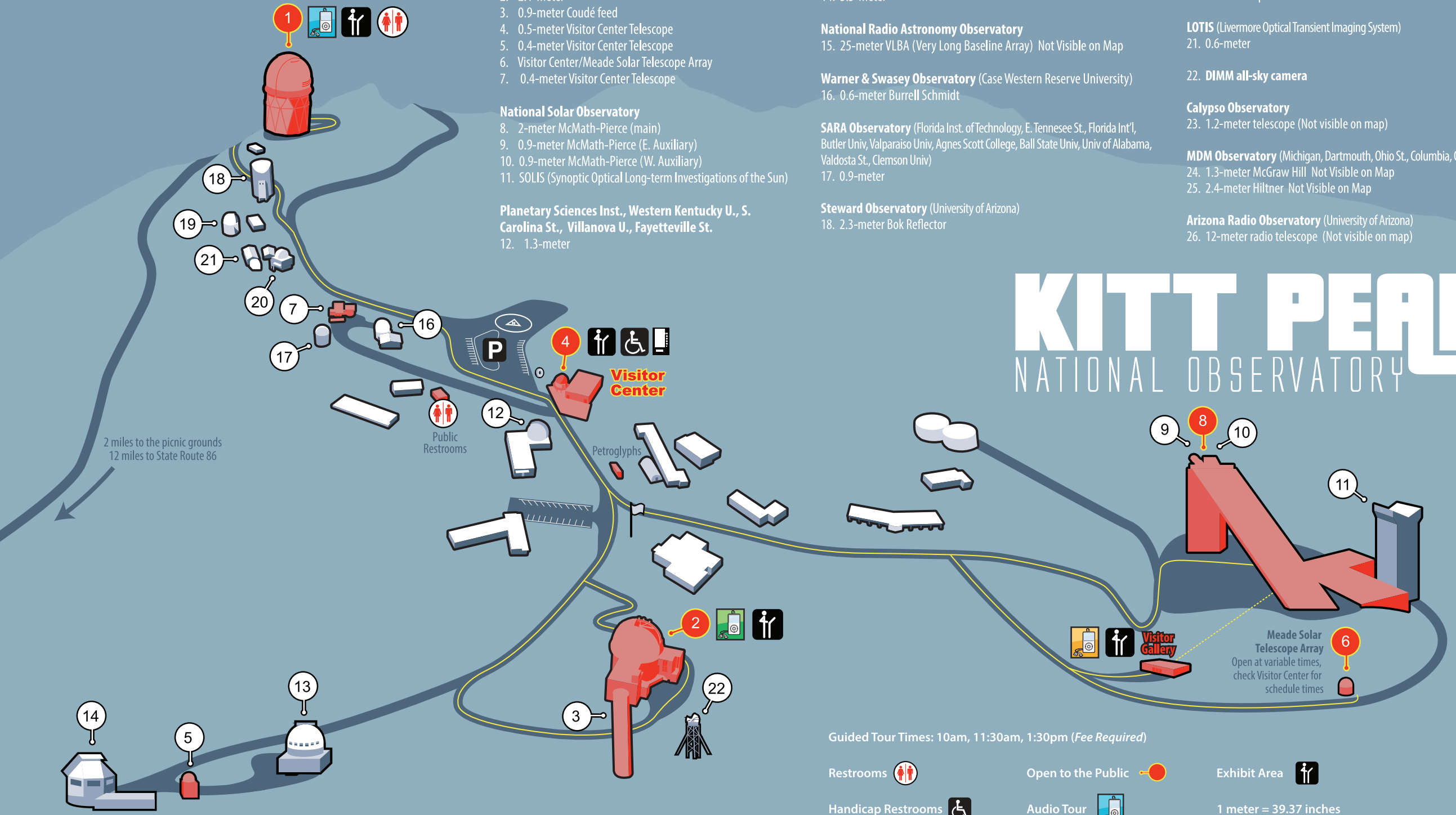
23. 1.2-meter telescope (Not visible on map)

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)



KITT PEAK NATIONAL OBSERVATORY

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



Open to the Public



Exhibit Area

1 meter = 39.37 inches