

The planetarium theme changes on a monthly basis and is selected from among a wide variety of astronomical and cosmological topics, including current astronomical events and how to find stars that night. Planetarium shows are presented with live commentaries for general audiences by our expert curators.

April – May: World Tour of Starry Skies (Apr. 22 – May 31)

The most advanced research observatories are built in locations at high altitudes with clear skies and low atmospheric water vapor levels, well away from city lights. This show takes you to observatories around the world that you may not have a chance to visit in person. Join the “tour” and gaze up at the amazingly starry skies.

June – July: Venus, the Evening Star (Jun. 1 – Jul. 13)

Venus, which has been visible in the evening sky since the beginning of the year, is at its brightest and most beautiful at this time of year. Utilizing the planetarium’s functions, this show reproduces the mechanism by which Venus can sometimes be seen at dawn and at other times in the evening, and the changes in its appearance.

July – August: How Can I See a Shooting Star? (Jul. 15 – Aug. 25)

Visualize a shooting star streaking across the night sky. Don't you want to see one with your own eyes? The year 2023 offers favorable conditions for observing both the Perseids in summer and the Geminids in winter. This show explains how meteor showers are seen and how to observe them.

September: Back to the Moon (Aug. 26 – Sep. 30)

Over 50 years have passed since humans set foot on the moon in the Apollo program. And now, another human flight to the moon is about to take place. It will not be long before Japanese astronauts travel to the moon.

—One hundred years since invention—

October: Starry Sky and Planetariums (Oct. 1 – 31)

It has been 100 years since the invention of modern planetariums, which project the starry sky on their domes. This show covers the history of astronomy from ancient times, stories behind the invention of planetariums, how modern planetariums work, and our ancestors’ passion for reproducing the starry sky.

November: Universe Seen in Invisible Light (Nov. 1 – 30)

Stars are usually seen in visible light. A completely different world opens up when you observe the same starry sky using electromagnetic wave in certain wavelength ranges that are invisible to the human eye, such as infrared, radio, X-rays, and gamma rays. Enjoy the universe that stretches out across the dome in invisible light.

December: Locating Stars with a Planisphere (Dec. 1 – 26)

The Nagoya City Science Museum has developed a planisphere that is useful for finding bright stars and constellations. This planisphere is also available as a smartphone app. Using this planisphere app that shows the positions of the moon and planets, you can locate the stars that interest you.

January: Circulation of Cosmic Materials (Dec. 27 – Jan. 31)

When the universe began 13.8 billion years ago, it was mostly made of hydrogen and helium. The various materials that make up our bodies and the world around us were originally produced by stars and circulated around the universe before coming to the earth.

February: Starry Sky Music Box: Early Spring (Feb. 1 – 15)

What if we compare the movements of stars across the sky to the rotation of a music box cylinder? In this show, the positions and brightness of stars passing by the meridian, are converted into notes. Listen to the early spring version of interesting tones of the “starry sky music box.”

(From Feb. 16 to Mar. 22, the entire museum will be closed, and the planetarium shows will be unavailable.)

March: Starry Sky Music Box: Spring (Mar. 23 –)

What if we compare the movements of stars across the sky to the rotation of a music box cylinder? In this show, the positions and brightness of stars passing by the meridian, are converted into notes. Listen to the spring version of interesting tones of the “starry sky music box.”

Family Hour

Family Hour shows are playful and fun for families with children of preschool and early elementary school age. These shows take you on space journeys and other adventures, as well as giving a view of the stars visible in the sky on that day. The shows are also recommended for visitors who have not previously experienced a planetarium.

Reservations are available for kids’ clubs and other groups of children, depending on the date and time. Please contact us for details.

Apr. 15 – Sep. 3
 Sep. 9 – Dec. 3
 Dec. 9 – Feb. 12
 Mar. 23 –

Step into the World of Stars
 An Adventure through the Solar System
 The Tale of the Twin Stars
 Step into the World of Stars