Planetariums

The Lawrence Hall of Science has some great planetarium shows to enjoy:

Traditions of the Autumn Sky. An interactive presentation to illuminate all of the stellar sights visible in the Bay Area night sky, including the Moon and planets.

Mission to the Red Planet. Find our nearest neighboring planet in our Berkeley nighttime (or pre-dawn) sky. Explore the features of the planet, which includes the largest mountain and the longest canyon in our Solar System. Learn about all of the missions to Mars, from orbiters to landers and rovers--and even a miniature helicopter!

https://lawrencehallofscience.org/exhibits/planetarium/

The Planets

Venus rises just after 4 a.m. as the Morning Star and is visible high in the east until it gets lost in the glare of the sunrise; it is, in fact, shining bright until at least 7 a.m. Saturn halfway across the sky towards the south as it gets dark with Jupiter blazing away in the east.

Galaxies

High over Berkeley for much of the night is a nebulous smear or small cloud. This is how the Andromeda Galaxy was first described some thousand years ago by the Persian astronomer Abd al-Rahman al-Sufi. In very dark areas, not unfortunately in Berkeley, you can see this cloud with just your eyes. But if you check out the telescope or binoculars you can borrow from the Library (see page 2!), you may find this spiral galaxy lurking just to the south east of the constellation Cassiopeia. Besides being the nearest major galaxy to ours, it is also getting closer to us at 68 miles per second. It will, in fact, collide with our own galaxy—in about 2 1/2 to 4 billion years from now. As with such takeovers, the result will likely be the creation of an even larger galaxy.

Constellations

The winter constellations are beginning to peak over the horizon with Taurus leading the charge as it rises after 9 p.m. over the Berkeley Hills.
**Telescopes @Berkeley Public Library!**

We have **5 Orion StarBlast Astro Reflector Telescopes** that you can borrow! **Each BPL Branch has a telescope**, which may be borrowed for 1 week. Place a hold on it and then pick it up from your branch when it is ready. It is fairly easy to carry at 13 lbs., and stands about 2 feet tall.

**Here’s what you get:**

"A great compact grab-and-go telescope designed for entry-level and intermediate astronomy enthusiasts. Substantial 4.5" aperture and fast f/4 focal ratio provides bright, detailed views of solar system targets like the Moon and planets, as well as wide-field celestial objects like nebulas and star clusters."

Much of the information for this report comes from the wonderful web site, Heavens Above. You can enter your home city location and bookmark it for easy access: [http://www.heavens-above.com](http://www.heavens-above.com). Other stellar sources include: [http://www.space.com](http://www.space.com) and [http://www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov). And check [spacex.com](http://www.spacex.com) for launches.

**Binoculars @Berkeley Public Library!**

Thanks to a generous donation from the Cal Falcons program, we have **9 Vortex-Raptor binocular kits** that you can put on hold and pick up at the location of your choice.

**Here’s what you get:**

Porro prism performance in a mid-size, wide-angle design, the Raptors deliver a bright, crisp image with excellent color fidelity - even in low light conditions. With a wide range of interpupillary distance, they can easily be adjusted to fit anyone in the family, making them ideal for serious, hard-core youth hunters. The kit comes with a copy of The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western America and a pocket guide to local birds of the SF Bay Area. But it is also great for looking at planets, the moon and the stars!

This **Sky Report** is brought to you by Berkeley Public Library’s **Cornerstones of Science**, which is funded in part by the Silberstein Foundation. Cornerstones of Science is part of a multi-library initiative to bring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programming to patrons.

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Please refrain from wearing scented products to public programs.

[www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org](http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org)