

African Astronomical History Symposium

Third Announcement



- Dates:** 2005 November 8 & 9 Cape Town
- Venue:** New lecture room facility at SAAO, Observatory, Cape Town.
(See attached map for directions)
- Website:** www.saa0.ac.za/assa/aahs
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Arrangements

This announcement is aimed at those who have signed up for the Symposium.

The full programme and a list of participants can be found on the AAHS web site www.saa0.ac.za/assa/aahs

Registration will commence at the wine and cheese reception to be held at the McClean telescope dome at SAAO (see map) on 7th November at 18h00. We will try to make it easy to enter at the front gate and after registration your badge should be sufficient to let you through easily. Registration will also be possible on the morning of 8th November from 08h30.

Parking is plentiful and secure on the SAAO grounds. Best to drive past the main building on the circular road in the direction of the SAAO sign and park under the trees or on the grass near the McClean. If these get too full, you can turn left after the main building (admin/reception sign) and take the road down to the right to where there is a big field.

Wine and cheese reception, 7 November, McClean Telescope, 18h00-20h00. This has kindly been sponsored by Stellakaya Wines.

The meetings will run from 09h00 to about 17h45 on the first day and 09h00 to about 17h00 on the second day. There will be a lunch break of about 1 hour.

Light lunches will be available for the cost of the food, at the venue.

Weather (For those unfamiliar with Cape Town)

Early November has spring weather. It is rarely very hot or cold, usually in the 20°C region. There is often a South-East wind, especially in the afternoons and evening, which brings a chill factor. Rain is infrequent at this time of year, but can occur. The sea is usually rather cold, but is better on the False Bay coast than on the Atlantic side of the Peninsula.

Safety and places to visit

South Africa has a high crime rate. Most places are not safe to walk around at night. You should ask your host wherever you are staying for local advice. Generally, leave your airline tickets etc with your host and just carry whatever money you need for the day.

Waterfront

The Waterfront is a favourite safe area with tourists and locals alike, with plenty of restaurants, shops and activities such as an aquarium. The ferry to Robben Island goes from here also.

Travel

The central blocks of the downtown area are fairly safe during working hours, and the trains are OK during the rush hours. Observatory station to SAAO is about 10 mins walk. Buy METRO-PLUS ticket and get into the Cape Town end of the train. Foreigners should avoid the minibus taxis.

Bus Tours

On a good day, a tour of the Cape Peninsula or the winelands is to be recommended. These tours usually pick clients up from hotels, but guest house owners can advise you on how to catch them.

Other items of interest

There are many museums, the planetarium (at the SA Museum, Cape Town), the National Art gallery, etc. The Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens are exceptionally interesting because of the unique flora of the Western Cape. The cableway to the top of Table Mountain is another popular destination (clear days only!).

