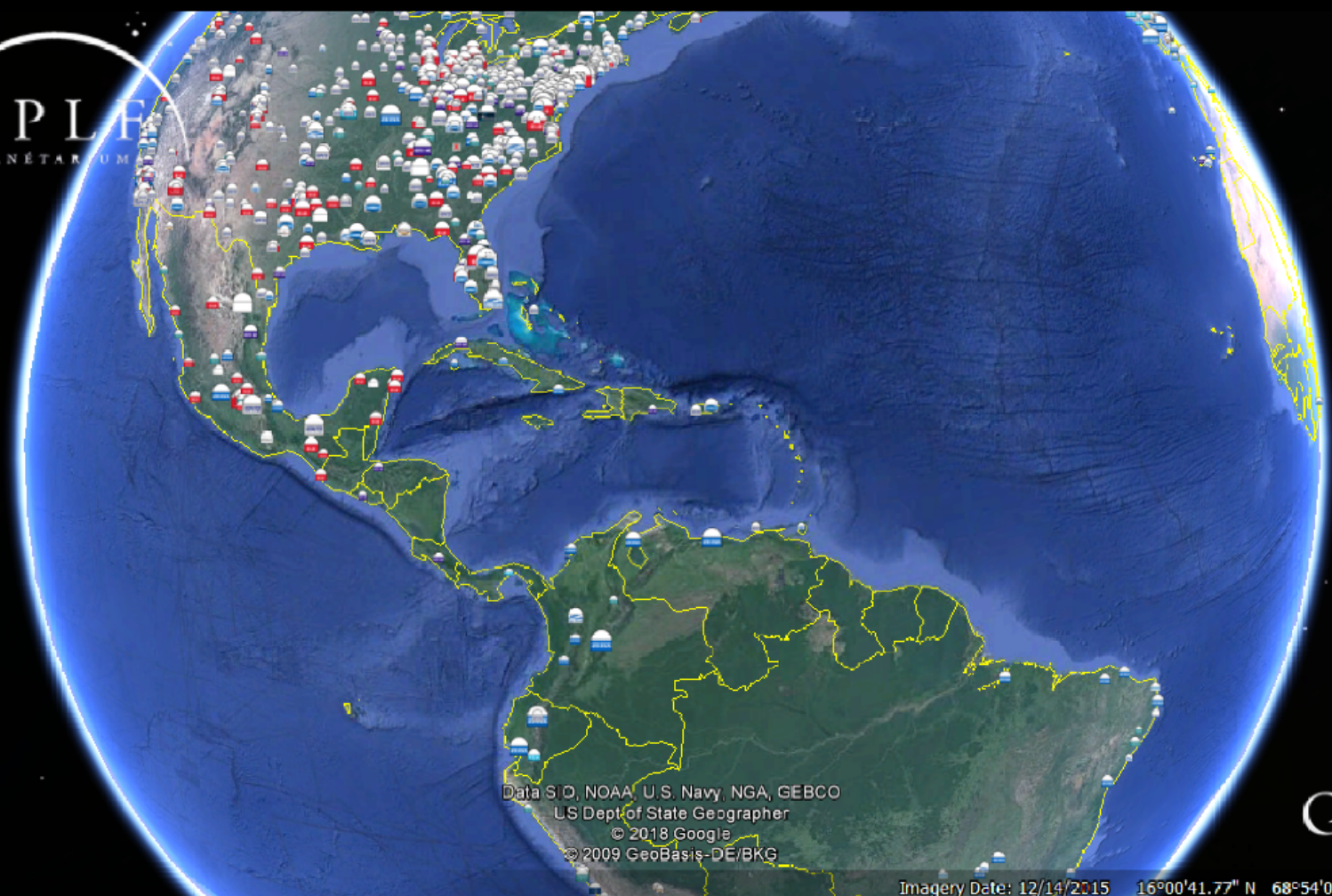


South African Planetariums



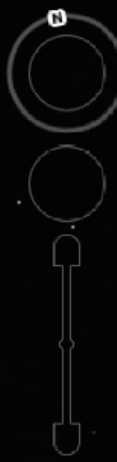
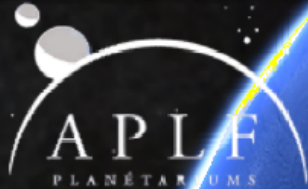
Matie Hoffman (Naval Hill Planetarium, University of the Free State)
Theo Ferreira (Iziko Planetarium)
(On behalf of few)



Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
US Dept of State Geographer
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Google earth

Imagery Date: 12/14/2015 16°00'41.77" N 68°54'02.88" W eye alt 10887.75 km



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US Dept of State Geographer
© 2018 Google
Image Landsat / Copernicus

Google earth

Imagery Date: 12/14/2015 31°44'48.74" N 36°39'58.40" E eye alt 10887.75 km



Imagery Date: 12/14/2015 25°31'09.50" S 30°59'54.08" E elev 804 m eye alt 3496.56 km



Imagery Date: 12/14/2015 25°31'09.50" S 30°59'54.08" E elev 804 m eye alt 3496.56 km



- **The history of the Wits Planetarium begins in the year 1956 - Festival Committee of the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the city**
- **Since timing was a matter of importance, and since it was soon found that it would not be possible to obtain a new instrument within a period of less than a year, it was decided to buy one of the existing instruments in Europe**
- **Festival Committee succeeded in inducing the City Council of**

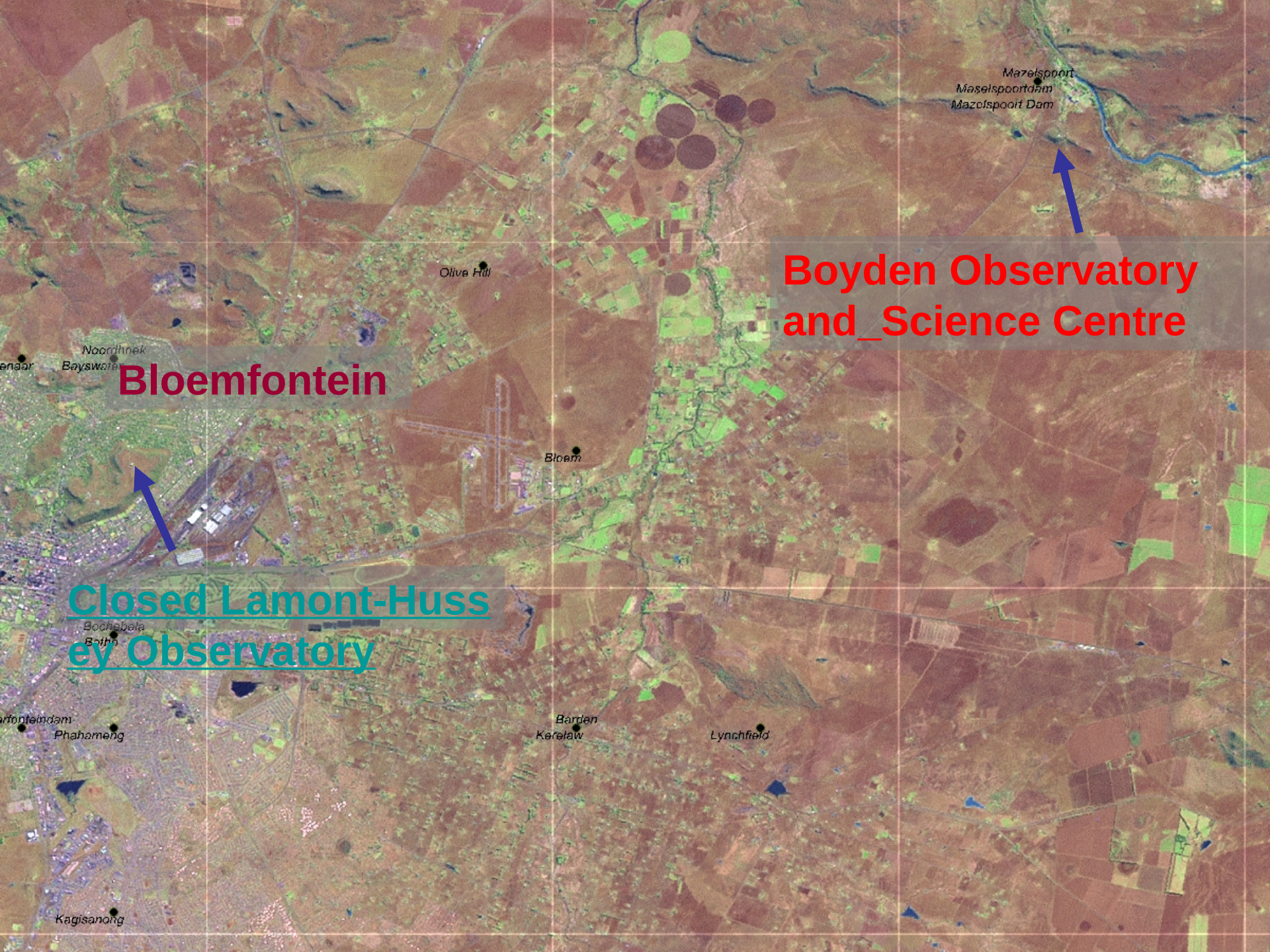
- **Projector modernised in the Zeiss factory**
- **The result - a Zeiss MkIII - was an instrument as modern and complete as any in the world at the time**
- **The Festival Committee after further negotiations, finally sold the projector to the University of the Witwatersrand**
- **Plans for the building were drawn in 1958, and building commenced in 1959**
- **On 12 October 1960 the first full-sized planetarium in Africa, and the**







Imagery Date: 12/14/2015 25°31'09.50" S 30°59'54.08" E elev 804 m eye alt 3496.56 km



Bloemfontein

**Closed Lamont-Huss
ey Observatory**

**Boyden Observatory
and Science Centre**



The Auditorium

(Sponsored by Shuttleworth Foundation)



Open sky astronomy presentations



Satellite viewing

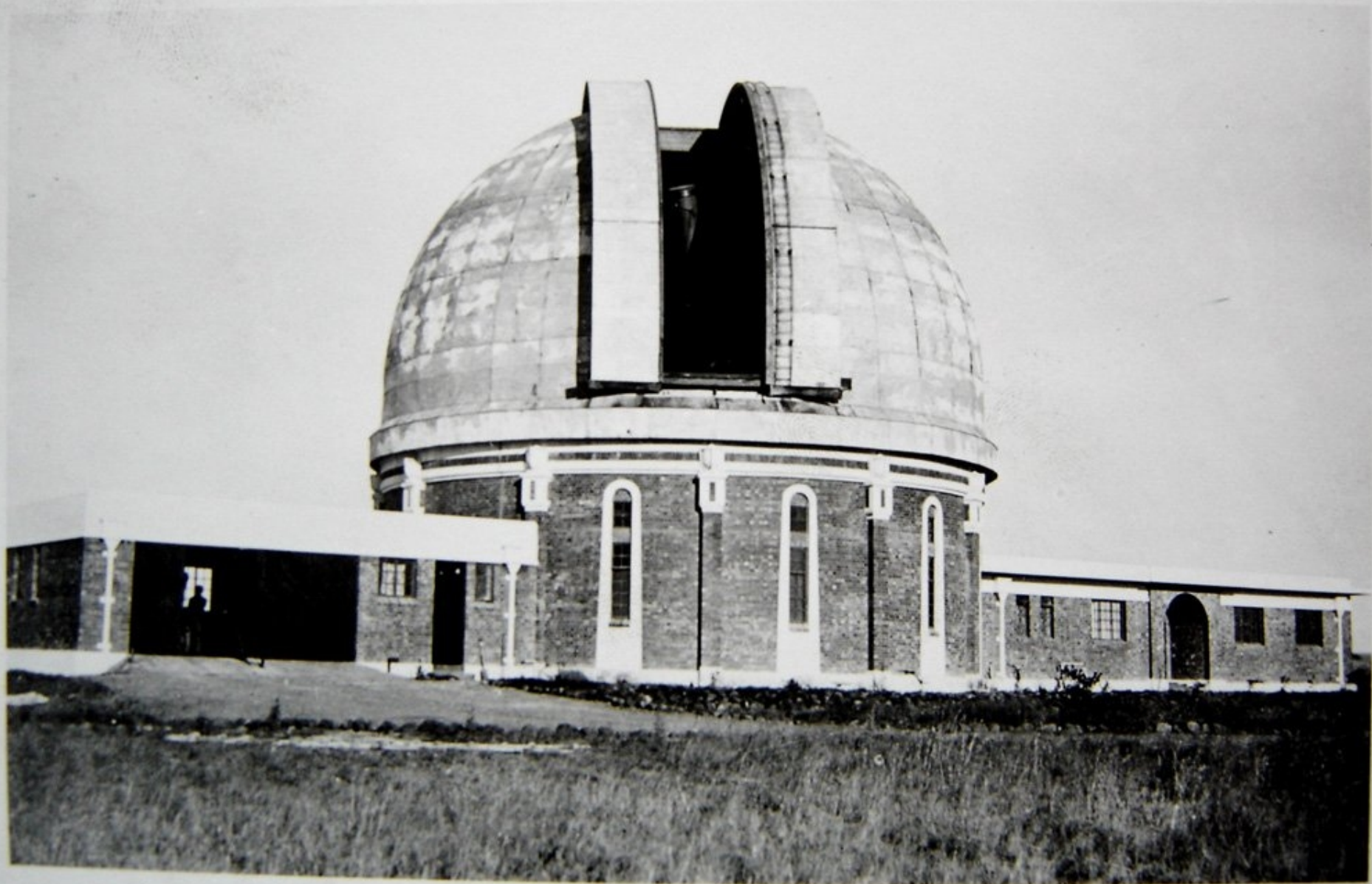




An aerial photograph of a city and a hillside. In the foreground, a hillside is covered with green trees and a few buildings. A large white telescope is visible on the hillside. In the background, a city is visible with various buildings and a large industrial facility with cooling towers. The sky is clear and blue.

*The story of amateur
and professional astronomers*

*Reinventing an old astronomical
observatory by establishing
South Africa's first state of the
art digital planetarium*



8. 1972 – 1975: Closure of the Observatory



At the time of Frank Holden's retirement in 1971, the Observatory had completed most of its intended work and was for all purposes not operational

Due to certain reasons like finances and politics, it was decided to close down the Observatory in 1974

The building was offered by Michigan to anyone that could put it to good use. The municipality took it in the end.



Planetarium plan for Bloemfontein, but...

The city's Rotarians wanted to convert it into a planetarium, but it would have been too expensive.

Bloemfontein's museums were some of the groups that showed interest in preserving the instruments

The municipality gave the use of the building to PACOFS. From then it was known as "*The Observatory Theatre*"





Recent intelligence agency alert:

*“Space ship under construction in
Bloemfontein, Central South Africa”*

Photo: Agent 007







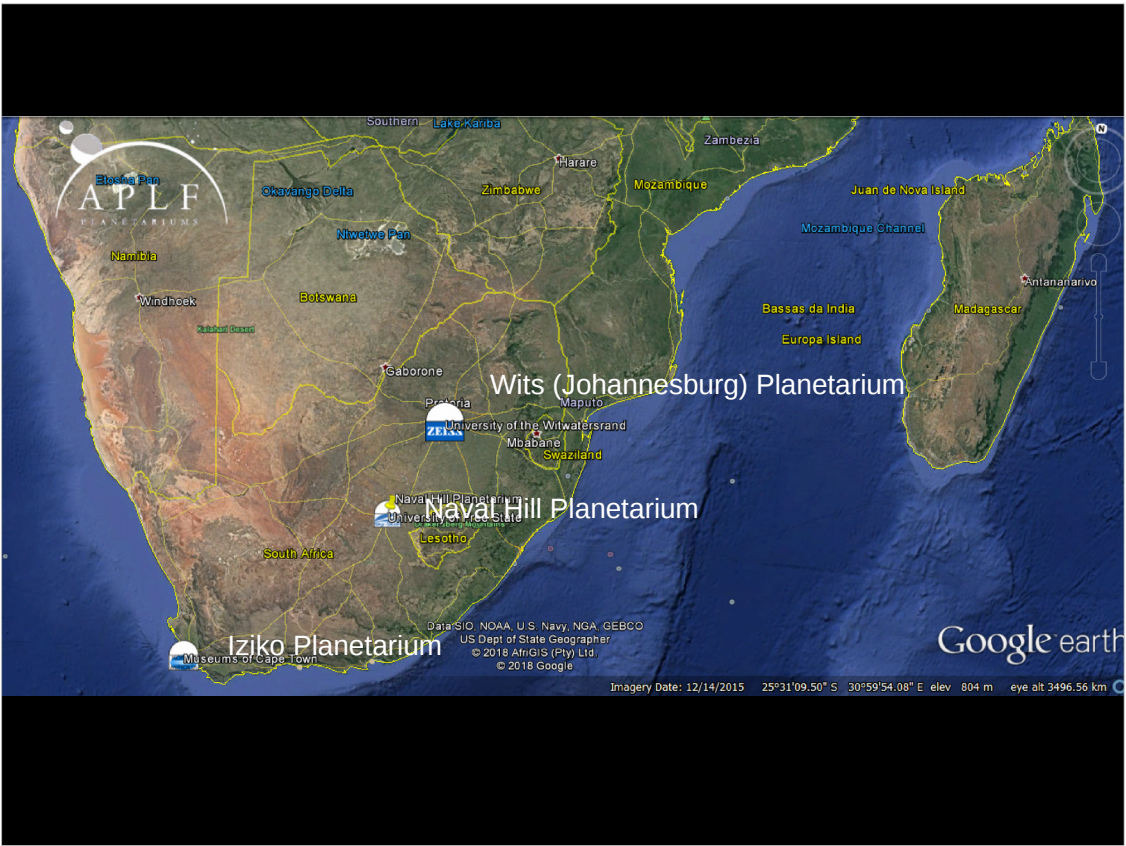
South African Planetariums



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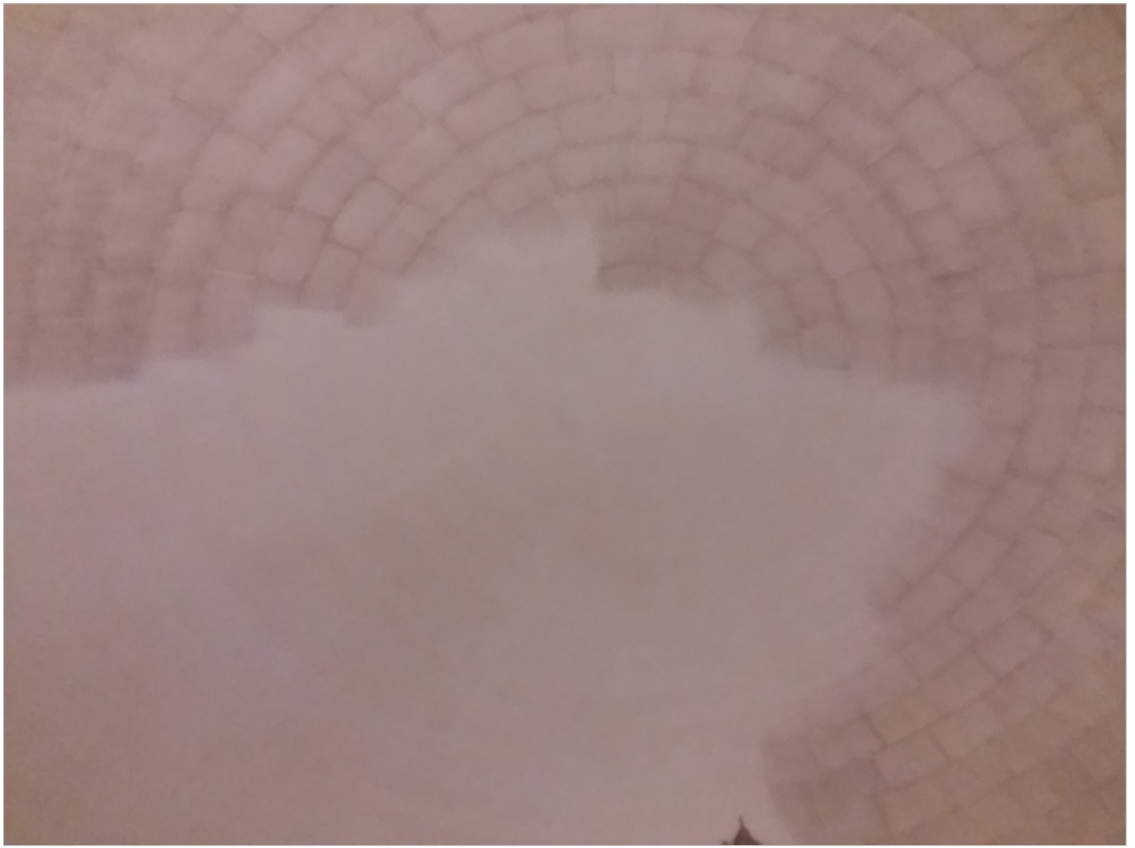


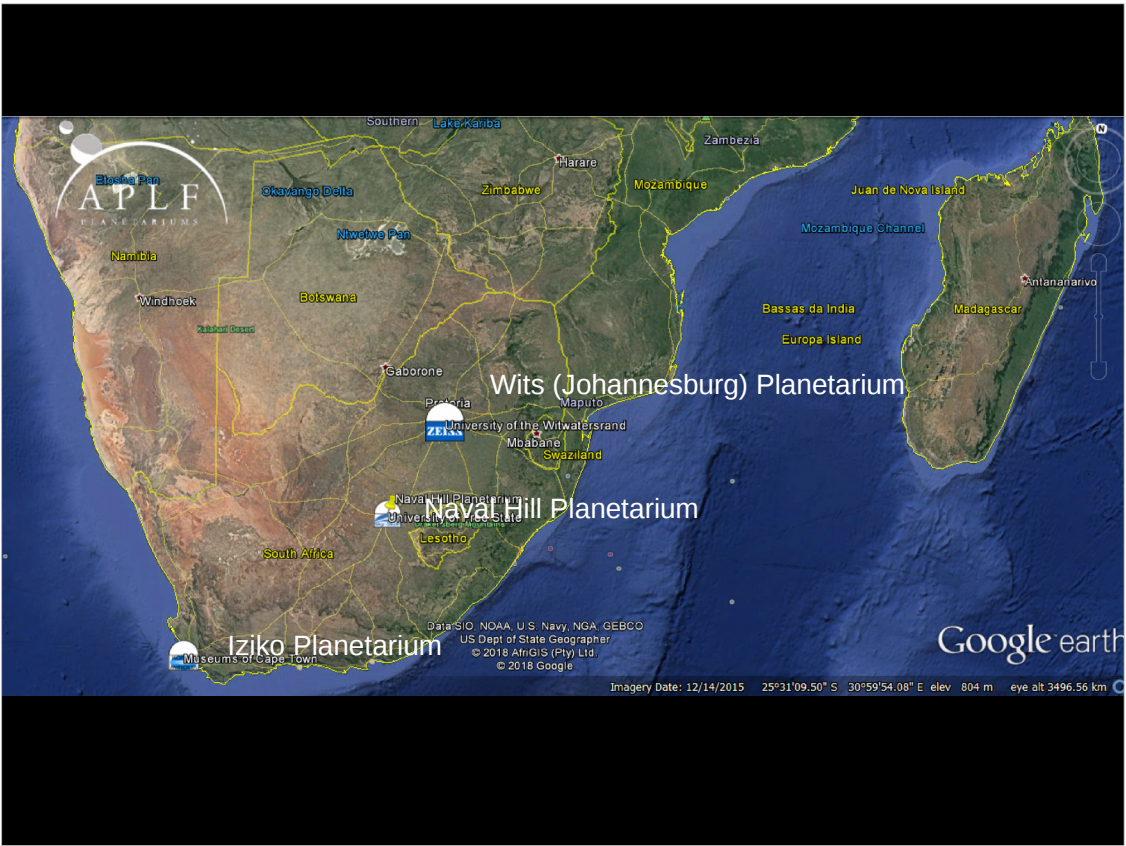


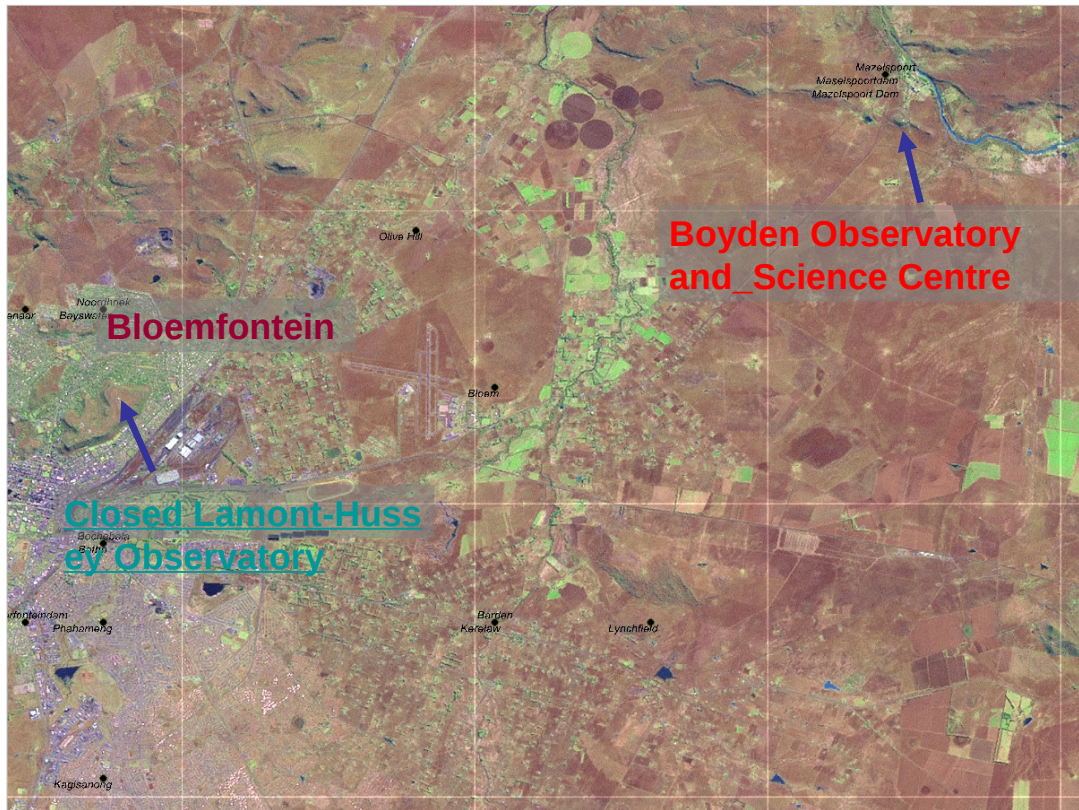
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120 km above Earth. We are ALREADY in space! The nearest satellites start their orbit at **130 km**. There is virtually no atmosphere here. The thickest layers of the atmosphere goes only 30 km up...

Boyden's 1.5 meter telescope dome is visible on the little hill top right...



The Auditorium

(Sponsored by Shuttleworth
Foundation)

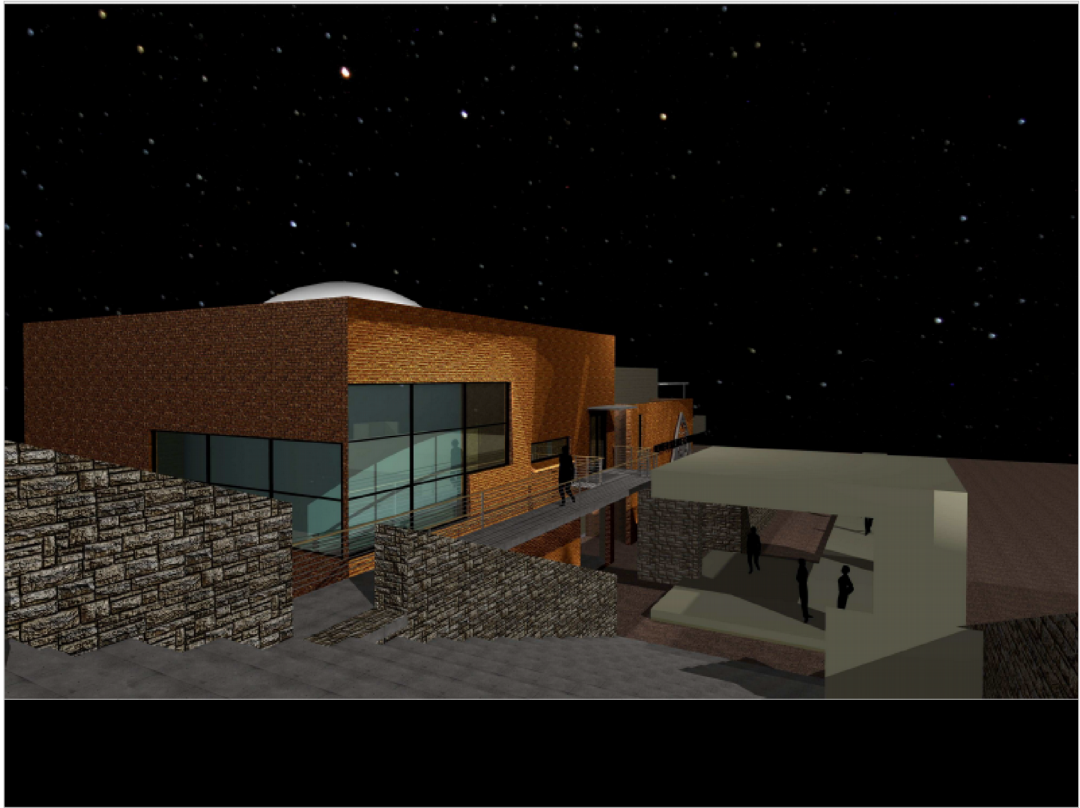



Open sky astronomy presentations



Satellite viewing

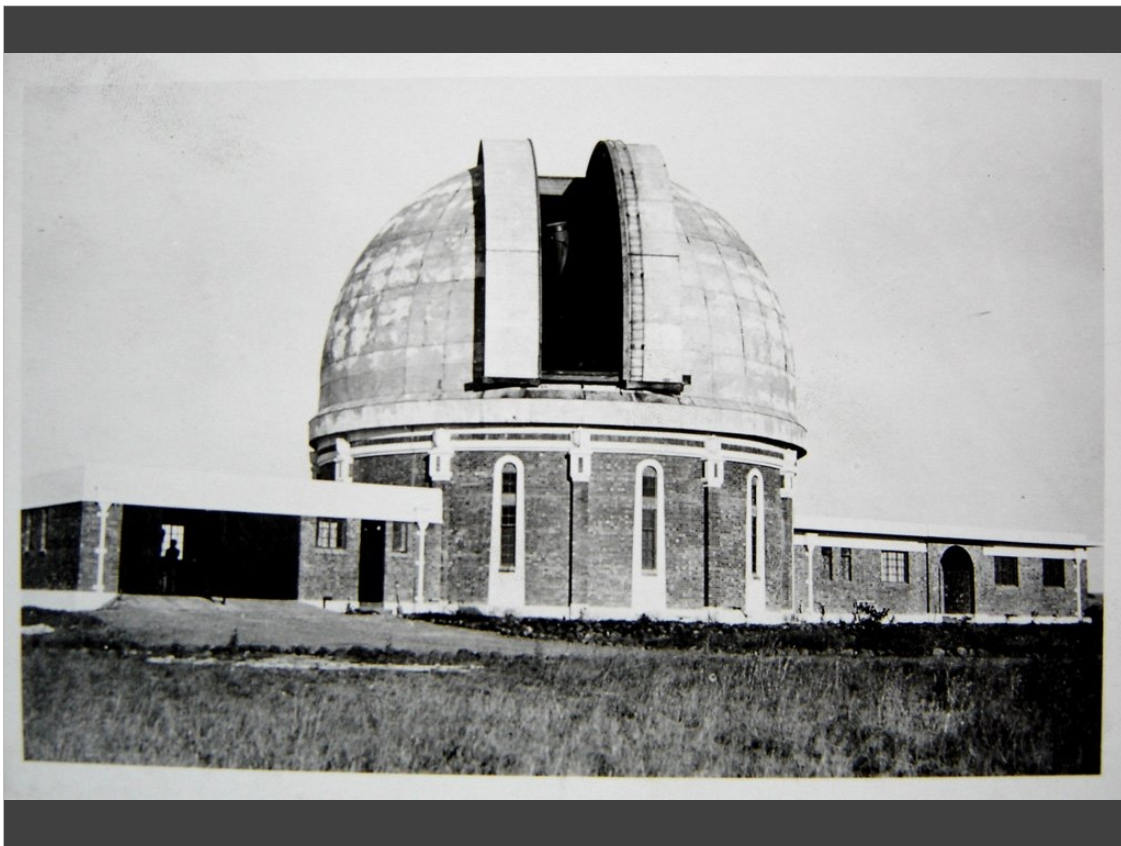




An aerial photograph showing a cityscape in the distance, with a river or water body visible. In the foreground, there is a densely wooded area with some buildings and a road. The sky is clear and blue.

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